



Congress grills Big Tech over competition, money and power

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and
MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writers

Big Tech faced tough questions this week as federal lawmakers focused on issues of potentially anticompetitive behavior by technology giants and expressed bipartisan skepticism over Facebook's plan for a new digital currency. Companies such as Apple, Google, Facebook and Amazon have long enjoyed nearly unbridled growth and a mythic stature as once-scrappy startups — born in garages and a dorm room and a road trip across the United States — that grew up to dominate their rivals. But as they've grown more powerful, critics have also grown louder, questioning whether the companies stifle competition and innovation, and if their influence poses a danger to society.

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Facebook Head of Global Policy Development Matt Perault, second from left, testifies alongside Google Director of Economic Policy Adam Cohen, back left, Amazon Associate General Counsel Nate Sutton, second from right, and Apple Vice President for Corporate Law and Chief Compliance Officer Kyle Andeer during a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing, Tuesday, July 16, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

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Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., left, chair of the House Judiciary antitrust subcommittee, speaks alongside ranking member, Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wisc., during a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing with representatives from major tech companies, Tuesday, July 16, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

Both Democrats and Republicans had grievances to air, even if there wasn't much consensus on what to do about them.

A Tuesday afternoon panel of the House Judiciary

Committee focused on whether it's time for Congress to rein in these companies, which are among the largest on Earth by several measures. Central to that case is whether their business practices run afoul

of century-old laws originally designed to combat railroad and oil monopolies.

For some legislators, mostly Democrats, those laws are in need of updates or at least more stringent enforcement. Ultimately such action could lead to breaking up big online platforms, blocking future acquisitions or imposing other limits on their actions.

Subcommittee chairman David Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat, charged that technology giants had enjoyed "de facto immunity" thanks to current antitrust doctrine, which typically equates anti-competitive behavior with higher prices for consumers. That allowed them to expand without restraint and to gobble up potential competitors, he argued, creating a "startup kill zone" that prevents smaller companies from challenging

incumbents with innovative services and technology.

A panel of four mid-level executives from the companies countered that their firms continue to innovate, that they face vigorous competition on all fronts — including from one another — and, perhaps most of all, that they were not monopolists in any way, shape or form.

Facebook, for instance, has argued that it is not a monopoly because it has many competitors in businesses as diverse as private messaging, photo sharing and online advertising.

So Democratic Rep. Joe Neguse of Colorado asked Facebook's head of global policy development, Matt Perault, to name the world's largest social network by active users. (It is Facebook.) When Perault said he couldn't, Neguse ticked off four of the six largest — Facebook, Facebook Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp — and had Perault verify that all are owned by Facebook.

"We have a word for that and that word is monopoly, or at least monopoly power," Neguse said.

The company representatives didn't help their case by pleading ignorance on multiple occasions. Google's director of economic policy, Adam Cohen, said he was "not familiar" with how much Google pays Apple for the right to supply the default search engine for Safari on iPhones. (Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democrat from Maryland, said It was \$9 billion in 2018 and \$12 billion in 2019.) Cohen also said he was "not familiar" with allegations of widespread fraudulent listings on Google Maps.

Amazon also faced some pointed questioning. Cicilline asked Nate Sutton, an associate general counsel at the online retailer,

whether it uses the data it collects about popular products to direct consumers to Amazon's own in-house products.

Sutton said the company doesn't use third-party sellers' data to "directly compete" with them. Cicilline, affecting disbelief, twice reminded Sutton that he was under oath. "Amazon is a trillion-dollar company that runs an online platform with real-time data," he said.

Expert witnesses suggested it might be time to reassess antitrust policy. Timothy Wu, a law professor at Columbia University who has advocated for more expansive antitrust enforcement, noted concerns about a fall in the number of startups being formed, and wondered aloud whether the U.S. will remain a place where startups thrive and launch new industries.

Fiona Scott Morton, a Yale economics professor, argued that stifled competition has hampered innovation and hurt both smaller businesses and consumers, who have no choice but to surrender their privacy and watch more advertising.

Others, mostly Republicans, rejected what they described as a big-is-bad approach in favor of keeping antitrust enforcers narrowly focused on protecting consumers when there's clear evidence of harm such as price gouging.

Attorney Maureen Ohlhausen, a former Republican commissioner and acting chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, said the government can still protect against anticompetitive behavior without "reducing the focus on consumer welfare."

She warned against "drastic" steps such as break-ups that carry "serious risk of doing more harm than good for competition and consumers." □




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Number of U.S. overdose deaths appears to be falling

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. overdose deaths last year likely fell for the first time in nearly three decades, preliminary numbers suggest.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday posted data showing nearly 68,000 drug overdose deaths were reported last year. The number may go up as more investigations are completed, but the agency expects the tally will end up below 69,000.

Overdose deaths had been climbing each year since 1990, topping 70,000 in 2017.

The numbers were celebrated by the U.S. secretary of health and human services. "Lives are being saved, and we're beginning to win the fight against this crisis," Alex Azar wrote in a tweet.

But the overdose death rate is still about seven times higher than it was a generation ago.

"We're still in a pretty sad situation that we need to address," said Rebecca Haffajee, a University of Michigan researcher.

Researchers do not believe this is the start of a dramatic decline. Data from the first months of this year likely will show that the decrease is not gaining steam, said Farida Ahmad of the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

The improvement was driven by a drop in deaths from heroin and prescription painkillers. Those falls were offset somewhat by continuing growth in deaths

involving a different opioid, fentanyl, as well as other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Overdose deaths often involve more than one drug.

The improvement is not uniform: Some states seem to be making dramatic progress, while deaths continue to rise in others. The preliminary CDC data suggested deaths last year were down by as many as 1,000 or more in Ohio and Pennsylvania — each seeing declines of about 20%. Meanwhile, deaths increased by about 17% in Missouri, which had more than 200 additional deaths.

It can take months for authorities to complete toxicology tests and other elements of a death investigation involving drugs. And some states report faster than others. The CDC is expected to report more complete data later this year.

The current overdose epidemic has killed more people than any other in U.S. history, and it had been on a soaring trajectory. From 2014 to 2017, overdose deaths jumped by 5,000 or more each year.

Experts trace the epidemic's origins to 1995 and the marketing of the prescription painkiller OxyContin. It was meant to be safer and more effective than other prescription opioids, but some patients got hooked and found they could crush the tablets and snort or inject them to get high.

Gradually, many turned to cheaper street drugs such as heroin and fentanyl. In 2015, heroin began caus-

ing more deaths than prescription painkillers or other drugs. In 2016, fentanyl and its close cousins became the biggest drug killer, and in 2018 they were involved in about 46% of the reported overdose deaths, according to the preliminary CDC data.

Strategies to reduce drug overdose deaths have included tougher policing, treatment program expansions, policies to limit opioid painkiller prescriptions and wider distribution of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone. □



In this April 5, 2019, file photo, containers depicting OxyContin prescription pill bottles lie on the ground in front of the Department of Health and Human Services' headquarters in Washington as protesters demonstrate against the FDA's opioid prescription drug approval practices.

Associated Press

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In this March 22, 2019 file photo, the construction site of Vogtle Units 4 at the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant is seen, Friday, March 22, 2019 in Waynesboro, Ga.

Associated Press

Nuclear industry push for reduced oversight gaining traction

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer mock commando raids to test nuclear power plants' defenses against terrorist attacks. Fewer, smaller government inspections for plant safety issues. Less notice to the public and to state governors when problems arise. They're part of the money-saving rollbacks sought by

the country's nuclear industry under President Donald Trump and already approved or pending approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, largely with little input from the general public. The nuclear power industry says the safety culture at the U.S. nuclear industry — 40 years after partial meltdown of a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island — is "exceptional" and merits the easing of government inspections.

Maria Korsnick, president of the industry's Nuclear Energy Institute trade group, said she welcomed changes in NRC plant oversight procedure "to ensure that it reflects a more robust understanding of the current performance of the U.S. nuclear fleet."

Opponents say the changes are bringing the administration's business-friendly, rule-cutting mission to an industry — nuclear reactors — where the stakes are too high to cut corners.

While many of the regulatory rollbacks happening at other agencies under the current administration may be concerning, "there aren't many that come with the existential risks of a nuclear reactor having a malfunction," said Geoff Fettus, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council on nuclear issues. This week, the NRC released staff recommendations for rollbacks in safety inspections for the 90-plus U.S. nuclear power plants and for less flagging of plant problems for the public. Democratic lawmakers and one NRC commissioner expressed concern about the safety risks and urged the commission to

seek broader public comment before proceeding.

The country's nuclear regulators were looking at "far-reaching changes to the NRC's regulatory regime without first actively conducting robust public outreach and engagement," New Jersey Democrat Frank Pallone Jr., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said in a letter to NRC Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki.

Svinicki and two other NRC commissioners did not respond Wednesday to requests for comment made through the agency's public affairs staff. NRC public affairs director David Castelveter said the NRC would respond directly to lawmakers on Pallone's letter.

A fourth commissioner, Jeff Baran, spoke out Tuesday, saying he opposed cutting inspections and reducing oversight. Baran called for more public input on proposed rollbacks.

Nuclear regulators post notices of meetings on proposed rollbacks on oversight of nuclear power plants on the NRC website. Lawmakers complained there's been scant notice to the public at large about the meetings or proposals. In general, according to attendance logs, the rollbacks are being hashed out at meetings attended almost solely by NRC staff and nuclear industry representatives. Occasionally, a single reporter or representative for private groups monitoring or opposing nuclear power is shown as attending. Korsnick, the industry trade group head, said the safety of workers and the public remains the priority. □

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Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman sentenced to life in prison

By TOM HAYS and CLAUDIA TORRENS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mexican drug kingpin and escape artist Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was sentenced Wednesday to life behind bars in a U.S. prison, expressing no remorse over his conviction for a massive drug conspiracy that spread murder and mayhem for more than two decades.

Instead, a defiant Guzman took a parting shot at a judge in federal court in Brooklyn by accusing him of making a mockery of the U.S. justice system in refusing to order a new trial based on unsubstantiated allegations of juror misconduct.

"My case was stained and you denied me a fair trial when the whole world was watching," Guzman said through an interpreter.

Experts say he will likely wind up at the federal government's Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, where inmates are held alone for 23 hours a day and have little human interaction.

"Since the government will send me to a jail where my name will not ever be heard again, I take this opportunity to say there was no justice here," he said.

The 62-year-old drug lord - sporting his trademark moustache after being clean-shaven during his trial - also used what could be his last chance to speak in public by complaining about being kept in solitary confinement since he was brought to the U.S. to stand trial after twice breaking out of Mexican prisons.

Before handing down the sentence, U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan said Guzman's complaints were minor given the "mountain range of evidence" against him detailing conduct he described as "evil."

On Wednesday, the judge heard from one of Guzman's alleged victims, Andrea Velez Fernandez, who once worked for him until she made his enemy list.



In this courtroom sketch, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, foreground right, reads a statement through an interpreter during his sentencing in federal court, Wednesday, July 17, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

She claimed he put out a \$1 million bounty to have her killed.

"Fortunately, I found out and escaped with the help of the FBI," she said.

Guzman had no visible reaction at hearing his sentence. As he stood to be led out of the courtroom, he put his hand on his heart and waved to family members.

Outside court, U.S. Attorney Richard Donoghue told reporters: "Never again will Guzman pour poison over our borders."

The term - life plus 30 years - was a foregone conclusion. The guilty verdict on drug-trafficking charges in February triggered a mandatory sentence of life without parole. Cogan also ordered Guzman to pay \$12.6 billion in ill-gotten proceeds - money his drug-trafficking organization made distributing cocaine and other drugs around the United States.

The evidence at an 11-week trial showed that Guzman's Sinaloa cartel was responsible for smuggling mountains of cocaine and other drugs into the United States during his 25-year reign, prosecutors said in recent court papers.

They also said his "army of sicarios" was under orders to kidnap, torture and murder anyone who got in his way.

The defense argued he was framed by other traffickers who became government witnesses so they could get breaks in their own cases. They also claimed his trial was tainted by jurors improperly viewing media coverage of the highly publicized case.

"A fair outcome was a fair trial - that's all we wanted," defense attorney Jeffrey Lichtman told reporters Wednesday outside the federal courthouse. "It was not justice. We can't have a situation where the jurors are running around lying to a judge about what they were doing."

Guzman has been largely cut off from the outside world since his extradition in 2017. U.S. authorities have kept him in an ultra-secure unit at a Manhattan jail and under close guard at his appearances at the Brooklyn courthouse where his case unfolded.

While the trial was dominated by Guzman's persona as a near-mythical outlaw who carried a diamond-encrusted handgun and

stayed one step ahead of the law, the jury never heard from Guzman himself, except when he told the judge he wouldn't testify.

But evidence at Guzman's trial suggested his decision to stay quiet at the defense table was against his nature: Cooperating witnesses told jurors he was a fan of his own rags-to-riches narco story, always eager to find an author or screenwriter to tell it. He famously gave an interview to American actor Sean Penn while he was a fugitive, hiding in the mountains after accomplices built a long tunnel to help him escape from a Mexican prison.

At the trial, Guzman's lawyers argued he was the fall guy for other kingpins who were better at paying off top Mexican politicians and law enforcement officials to protect them while the U.S. government looked the other way. They said witnesses' descriptions of El Chapo leading a lavish lifestyle featuring private planes, beachfront villas and a private zoo were overblown, and that there's no chance the U.S. government could collect the multibillion-dollar forfeiture. □

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U.S. heat wave just warming up for long and scorching weekend

By COREY WILLIAMS and SETH BORENSTEIN

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The heat wave that has been roasting much of the U.S. in recent days is just getting warmed up, with temperatures expected to soar to dangerous levels through the weekend.

Communities are preparing by offering buildings as cooling centers and asking residents to check in on relatives and neighbors. Officials also are concerned about smog, which is exacerbated by the heat and makes it more difficult for certain people to breathe, including the very young, the elderly and people with asthma or lung diseases.

More than 100 local heat records are expected to fall Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Most won't be record-daily highs but record-high nighttime lows, and that lack of cooling can be dangerous, meteorologists say. Temperatures in parts of the East won't drop below the mid- to upper-70s or even 80 degrees (26.7 Celsius) at night, he said.

The heat wave will likely be "short and searing," said Greg Carbin, forecast branch chief for the weather service's Weather Prediction Center.

A high pressure system stretching from coast-to-coast is keeping the heat turned on. The heat and humidity are made to feel worse by the large amount of moisture in the air coming from the Gulf of Mexico, much of it left over from Hurricane Barry.

The heat index, which is what the temperature feels like, should hit 110 (43.3 Celsius) in Washington, D.C., on Saturday and 109 (42.8 Celsius) in Chicago and Detroit on Friday, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of Weather Underground. Wednesday marked Washington's seventh straight day with temperatures of at least 90 degrees (32.2 Celsius), and that streak was expected to last for another five days.

An experimental weather service forecast projects



Russ Wilson splashes water on his face from a fountain in New York, Wednesday, July 17, 2019. The heat wave that has been roasting much of the U.S. in recent days is just getting warmed up, with temperatures expected to soar to dangerous levels through the weekend.

Associated Press

that nearly 100 local records will be broken Thursday and Friday in Texas, Oklahoma, parts of the Midwest and a large swath of the East Coast. On Saturday, 101 records could fall in an area stretching from Texas to Iowa and east to Maine and Florida, according to projections.

Deloris Knight said she will keep the heat out of her eastside Detroit home by keeping her doors and curtains closed while running the small window air conditioner in her living room.

"We have a couple of big fans. We have ceiling fans," Knight, 63, said Wednesday while enjoying temperatures in the mid-80s (about 29 degrees Celsius) from her front porch. "I keep lemonade and gallons of

frozen water in the refrigerator. At night, we're in the house."

Even that may not provide enough relief for some, especially for young children, the elderly or people with certain chronic illnesses.

The Environmental Protection Agency's live air quality tracker reported that the air was "unhealthy" Wednesday for sensitive groups in a stretch of the East Coast from Baltimore to Bridgeport, Connecticut, including Philadelphia and New York City.

Such heat can be deadly. Over three days in July 1995, more than 700 people died during a heat wave in Chicago as temperatures rose above 97 degrees (36.1 Celsius). Many of the dead were poor, elderly

and lived alone.

"Daytime hours when the sun is out is clearly our highest risk periods," said Dr. Michael Kaufmann, EMS medical director with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. "We're not expecting the drops in temperature at night — or the humidity — that we often realize when the sun goes down."

Roger Axe, who heads the emergency management agency in Indiana's Greene County, said he has asked churches and other organizations to open their doors as "possible lifesaving cooling centers."

Officials in the Detroit suburb of Westland will keep the police station lobby and one of its fire stations open around the clock.

The Chicago suburb of Orland Park also opened its police station as its primary 24-hour cooling center.

Kelly Boeckman, 31, and Taylor Knoll, 28, met Wednesday morning — when the heat was still bearable — to chat at a patio table in downtown Jefferson City, Missouri. Both have young children and said they are careful to keep them hydrated and protected from the heat.

"We definitely aren't doing outside activities for the afternoon and evening, even though they want to sometimes," said Boeckman, who has 6-year-old twins and a 3 year old. They're "playing early, (getting) lots of water and hydration, (and) staying in the shade when we are outside."

Steve Owen, a 54-year-old bus driver from Roeland Park, Kansas, dumped water on his head to stay cool Wednesday while waiting to pick up a day care group from the local pool.

"I'm usually revived and feeling much better," he said after drenching himself. "That usually gets me through."

The heat also can take a toll on pets and other animals. Officials at the Brookfield Zoo near Chicago have spent the past few days preparing.

Blocks of ice weighing about 300 pounds (136 kilograms) were being trucked in for the polar and grizzly bears, and the zoo planned to give ice cubes to the reindeer. Additional animals were being given access to indoor quarters starting Thursday.

"The welfare of the animals is our top priority," said zoo spokeswoman Sondra Katzen.

The same is true at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, where some animals have cooling stations in their enclosures and space off-exhibit where they can go to cool down, said general curator Dave Bernier.

"I don't expect it to be much change in attendance," he said. "Once they decide they want to go to the zoo on the weekend, that's usually where they go." □



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California pot regulators struggling with job, audit says

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The agency overseeing California's legal marijuana market has been overmatched by the job and is struggling to hire sufficient staff and set an overall strategy for the nation's largest cannabis economy, an audit found.

About two-thirds of the 219 staff positions authorized for the Bureau of Cannabis Control remain unfilled, according to an audit by the state Finance Department. A shortage of staff in the enforcement unit is hindering the agency's ability to conduct investigations. While the cannabis bureau is in its relative infancy and has established a foundation to oversee the market, "the current status and location of personnel is not sustainable to provide effective and comprehensive oversight of cannabis activities throughout California," according to the audit, which was released earlier this month.

The problems outlined in the audit provide a backstory to the uneven rollout of the state's legal pot market, which kicked off sales on Jan. 1, 2018. By just about any measure, California's effort to transform its longstanding illegal and medicinal marijuana markets into a unified, multibillion-dollar industry remains a work in progress. Legal shops must compete with thriving underground sales, and companies say hefty tax rates make it hard to lure customers. A promised state tax windfall has yet to arrive, and licensing has been slow and problematic.

While legal cannabis is being sold around California, it's unavailable in many areas because local governments have banned sales or not set up rules for the market to operate. A legal fight is underway over home deliveries into communities that have banned commercial pot sales.

In a lengthy response, the Department of Consumer Affairs, which oversees the cannabis bureau, said the agency faced a rigid deadline to adopt regulations and begin issuing licenses in 2018.

Regulators hit that target, but the agency acknowledged it faced a maze of shifting legislation and related requirements, including hiring staff, conducting studies, finding office space, entering into contracts for basic equipment and services, designing an online system and reviewing license applications.

The agency disputed some findings and argued that it met or exceeded its responsibilities despite the challenges.

"Unlike most state government programs, the bureau was simultaneously starting from the ground up on multiple fronts," the response said.

Lori Ajax, the state's top pot regulator, said the audit recognized the agency's ability to establish a complex regulatory system "under challenging conditions."

She said the agency welcomed the audit's recommendations to "strengthen our operations as we move forward."

The audit did not examine two other agencies involved in pot regula-

tion — the Department of Food and Agriculture, which oversees cultivation, and the Public Health Department, which regulates manufacturers. The primary source of revenue for the agency is from application and license fees. About \$200 million was expected to come in through June 30, 2019, but the bureau has collected only \$2 million as of January 2019. □



This Sept. 11, 2018, file photo shows cannabis plants growing at a greenhouse at SLOgrown Genetics in the coastal mountain range of San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Associated Press

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Relatives of victims mark 5th anniversary of MH17 downing

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

VIJFHUIZEN, Netherlands (AP) —

With songs, speeches and solemn silence, relatives and friends on Wednesday commemorated the 298 passengers and crew killed five years ago when a missile blew Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 out of the sky above war-torn eastern Ukraine.

Central to the memorial service at a Dutch monument to the MH17 disaster was the reading of the names of all those who died when a Buk missile shattered the Boeing 777, which was heading from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, as it passed over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014. It took nearly a half hour for family and friends — some choking back tears — to read out the names and ages of the victims.

"Miss you sis," said Monika Beaujean, as she read out the name of her twin sister, Gaby Lauschet from Sydney, Australia.



In this Thursday, July 17, 2014 file photo, people walk amongst the debris at the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Grabove, Ukraine.

Associated Press

Beaujean travels each year from her home in Brisbane to be at the annual memorial services.

"She's my twin sister, and when that happened I thought I'm losing a wing,"

she said. "And for me it is so important to come back to try to fly with one wing, and I'm hoping that I can do that one day."

The service, attended by more than 1,000 people,

happened at a monument surrounded by trees, one planted for each victim, close to Schiphol Airport, where the passengers boarded the flight.

Nearly 200 of the victims

were Dutch; the others came from a variety of countries, including Malaysia, Australia, Canada, Britain and Belgium.

In the five years since the plane was shot down, a Dutch crash investigation ruled that a Buk surface-to-air missile brought down the Boeing 777.

A separate criminal investigation concluded that the missile system was trucked into Ukraine from Russia.

Last month, a Joint Investigation Team made up of detectives from the Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Ukraine and Belgium said it will prosecute four suspects, in their absence if necessary, at a trial set to start in March.

The suspects are three Russians with links to their country's intelligence services and a Ukrainian who led a separatist combat region in Ukraine's Donetsk region.

They are charged with involvement in the murder of all those who lost their lives. □

Germany: leader of Merkel party takes over defense ministry

By GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The new leader of Chancellor Angela Merkel's party took over Germany's defense ministry on Wednesday in a risky but potentially rewarding move, reversing her previous insistence that she wouldn't join the Cabinet. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer succeeded Ursula von der Leyen, who was elected Tuesday as the new head of the European Commission.

Kramp-Karrenbauer narrowly won the leadership of Merkel's center-right Christian Democratic Union in December. She has concentrated so far on trying to renew the party, among other things seeking to heal divisions with conservatives who were irked by Merkel's welcoming approach to migrants in 2015 and other moves.

However, she has seen her poll ratings drop sharply following several gaffes, and has struggled to raise her



From right, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, new elected European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, von der Leyen's successor as German Defense Minister, attend an office over ceremony at the Bellevue Palace in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

profile given that she lacks a seat in parliament and

also wasn't in the Cabinet. Kramp-Karrenbauer had

insisted in recent days that she would continue to concentrate on the party, but has now changed tack abruptly.

Merkel says she won't seek a fifth term as chancellor. It isn't yet clear who will run as the CDU's candidate for chancellor in Germany's next election, which is due in 2021 but could come earlier if her fractious coalition with the struggling center-left Social Democrats collapses.

The defense ministry offers Kramp-Karrenbauer, 56, who has served as governor of Saarland state but not in the federal government, a chance to gain foreign and security policy experience.

But it also is notoriously difficult to run, with concerns including the poor state of the German military's equipment and managing a transition from conscription to a professional force. While von der Leyen's unexpected elevation to the European Union's top job

after 5½ years as defense minister suggests that the post can be a springboard to promotion, it has left most recent occupants as diminished figures in domestic politics. Von der Leyen herself was long considered a potential successor to Merkel but faded out of contention while at the defense ministry.

An ambitious younger conservative who also ran in last year's CDU leadership election, Health Minister Jens Spahn, had been considered favorite to become defense minister. Kramp-Karrenbauer's move to take the job avoids giving a potential rival more exposure.

Kramp-Karrenbauer didn't address the reasons for her choice in brief remarks to reporters at the defense ministry, and took no questions. She said she was taking on the job "with great respect, whole-heartedly and full of conviction," and is "very much looking forward to this task." □

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With Big Tech's dominance under scrutiny, EU probes Amazon

By **CARLO PIOVANO**
RAF CASERT

BRUSSELS (AP) — While the U.S. Congress talks about reining in big tech companies, Europe is taking action.

The European Union said Wednesday it is investigating whether Amazon uses data from independent retailers to gain an unfair advantage, a decision that could lead to changes in how the internet's biggest marketplace works.

The move echoes similar antitrust actions against Google and Microsoft that have led to billions in fines. It also contrasts with U.S. lawmakers' slower approach to the issue, as they start discussing how to curb the growing power of the tech industry's titans. A Tuesday hearing in Washington looked into whether the companies' business practices run afoul of century-old laws originally designed to combat railroad and oil monopolies. Any U.S. action is still a long time away. The EU's antitrust chief, Margrethe Vestager, said she's taking a "very close look" at Amazon's dual role as marketplace and retailer.

In addition to selling its own products, Amazon allows third-party retailers to sell their goods through its site. Last year, more than half of the items sold on Amazon worldwide were from third-party sellers.

In doing so, Amazon collects data about activity on its platform that, the EU says, it might be able to use to favor its own products for sale. In particular, the EU will look at how Amazon determines which trader is selected as the default



European Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager, center, speaks with European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Pierre Moscovici, second left, and European Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs Dimitris Avramopoulos, left, during the weekly college meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, July 3, 2019.

Associated Press

seller of an item that a customer wants to buy.

The EU opened a preliminary probe into the issue last year, and Vestager said it has shown that "Amazon appears to use competitively sensitive information - about marketplace sellers, their products and transactions on the marketplace." The investigation could lead to fines and eventually cause Amazon to change the way it works. Previous EU antitrust cases have resulted in such change, though it is unclear how big their ultimate impact has been in addressing the EU's concerns. For example, Google had to tweak the display of search results, which the EU had said favored Google goods and services.

Amazon said it "will cooperate fully with the European Commission and continue working hard to support businesses of all sizes and help them grow."

During Tuesday's hearing before a House panel, Amazon associate general counsel Nate Sutton said Amazon has an incentive to keep third-party sellers strong because they make up nearly 60% of unit sales for Amazon and are growing twice as fast as Amazon's own retail operations. Under questioning, Sutton insisted that Amazon uses data to serve customers but not to directly compete with them. His remarks echoed executive Jeff Wilke's insistence in June that no one inside Amazon shares seller data to create competing Amazon private-label products, such as Solimo paper towels and Amazon Basics batteries.

In a parallel but separate case, Germany's competition regulator said Wednesday that Amazon was changing some of its business conditions for traders on its online marketplace worldwide after the regula-

tor raised concerns about some terms. The case is not like the EU's probe about data on traders, but about contractual terms such as a one-sided exemption from liability to Amazon's benefit as well as the place of jurisdiction for disputes.

Other EU countries like Austria, Luxembourg and Italy are also independently investigating Amazon but EU spokeswoman Lucia Caudet said the national probes did not overlap with the EU investigation.

The EU's investigations into major companies like Amazon have led the way in a global push to more tightly regulate tech giants, as many governments wonder if they are becoming too big for the good of the wider economy.

Among the key questions are not only whether the tech giants abuse their market dominance to choke off competition, potentially stifling choice for

consumers and innovation, but also whether they are adequately protecting users' data and paying their fair share of taxes in countries where they operate.

U.S. authorities have started to follow Europe's lead in taking a closer look at the big tech companies, particularly after the scandal in which Facebook was found to have allowed data on millions of people to be used by other companies, including to try to influence the 2016 election that made Donald Trump the new U.S. president. According to published reports, U.S. regulators are poised to fine Facebook \$5 billion for that scandal, but the wider debate of reining in tech companies' powers has only just begun.

The House Judiciary Committee in the U.S. is investigating the market power of Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple. Congress also held two days of hearings this week on Facebook's plan to create a digital currency, Libra, which governments in the U.S. and Europe have been skeptical about.

In Europe, one of the big questions is how to tax these companies, which do huge business across the continent but pay taxes only in the EU nation where their local headquarters are based, often a low-tax haven like Luxembourg or the Netherlands. The result is they pay a far lower tax rate than traditional businesses.

France has tried to address the problem by unilaterally proposing a 3% tax on big tech companies' revenue in the country. □

Iran's top diplomat walks back from remark on missile talks

By **AMIR VAHDAT**
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's foreign minister said Wednesday that his country has no choice but to manufacture missiles for defense purposes — comments that reflect more backtracking after a remark by the top diplomat suggesting the missiles could be up for negotiations.

Mohammad Javad Zarif said in an interview with NBC News that aired earlier this week that if the U.S. wants to talk about Iran's missiles, it needs "first to stop selling all these weapons, including missiles, to our region."

Iran has long rejected negotiations over its ballistic missile program, which remains under the control of the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard that answers only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The foreign minister's remarks suggested a possible opening for talks as ten-



Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif prepares to address the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, at United Nations headquarters, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

sions remain high between Tehran and Washington.

But the Iranian mission to the United Nations promptly called Zarif's suggestion purely "hypothetical" and said the Iranian missiles were "absolutely and under

no condition negotiable with anyone or any country, period."

In Tehran, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, tweeted late on Tuesday that Zarif's comments meant to challenge

Washington and "threw the ball into the U.S. court while challenging America's arm sales" to its Mideast allies.

Zarif himself on Wednesday backpedaled on the missiles issue, saying Iran has no choice but to manufac-

ture the missiles for its own defense.

He cited the 1980s Iran-Iraq war and tweeted that, "For 8 YEARS, Saddam (Hussein) showered our cities with missiles & bombs provided by East & West. Meanwhile, NO ONE sold Iran any means of defense. We had no choice but building our own. Now they complain." "Instead of skirting the issue, US must end arms sales to Saddam's reincarnations," Zarif also said.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have sharply escalated since President Donald Trump unilaterally last year withdrew America from the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall. America has also rushed thousands of additional troops, an aircraft carrier, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets to the Mideast amid unspecified threats from Iran. □

Taliban close Afghan health facilities run by Swedish group

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**
JAN M. OLSEN

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban forced a Swedish non-profit group to close 42 health facilities it runs in eastern Afghanistan, the organization said Wednesday, the latest attempt by the insurgents to show strength amid negotiations to end the country's nearly 18-year war.

In Sweden, the group's director called the closures "an obvious violation of human rights and international humanitarian law" and demanded the facilities be allowed to reopen right away.

The Taliban currently control nearly half of Afghanistan and are more powerful than at any time since the October 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Sonny Mansson, the country director of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, told The Associated Press that the Taliban threatened the NGO's staff by saying that if they do not



Ahmad Khalid Fahim, program director for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

close the facilities, "it would have consequences for themselves and their families."

"We treat equally anyone who needs medical care regardless of who they are. Everyone who needs help gets it," Mansson said, add-

ing the facilities that closed over the weekend were in a Taliban-controlled area of Maidan Wardan province while others are still open in the province's government-controlled areas. Parwiz Ahmad Faizi, the group's communications

manager, said the closures came after Afghan forces last week raided a clinic run by the NGO in Daimirdad district. The Afghan troops, acting on intelligence, were allegedly looking for suspected Taliban fighters hiding in the clinic.

Ahmad Khalid Fahim, program director for the Swedish group, said two staff members, a guard and a lab worker, and two other people were killed in the attack, while a fifth person has been missing.

Insurgents contacted the staff and ordered the NGO to shut down, Fahim added. Faizi said the closures would affect health services for around 6,000 patients, particularly women and children.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the closure of the NGO's facilities. The developments come amid stepped-up efforts by the United States to find a negotiated end to the country's conflict, America's longest war. Afghan talks that brought together the country's warring sides ended last week in Qatar's capital, Doha, with a statement that appeared to move closer to peace by laying down the outlines of a roadmap for the country's future. □

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Ebola outbreak in Congo declared a global health emergency

By MARIA CHENG
JAMEY KEATEN

GENEVA (AP) — The deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo is now an international health emergency, the World Health Organization announced on Wednesday after the virus spread this week to a city of two million people.

A WHO expert committee had declined on three previous occasions to advise the United Nations health agency to make the declaration for this outbreak, which other experts say has long met the conditions. More than 1,600 people have died since August in the second deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, which is unfolding in a region described as a war zone.

This week the first Ebola case was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in northeastern Congo on the Rwandan border with an international airport. Health experts have feared this scenario for months.

A declaration of a global health emergency often brings greater international attention and aid, along with concerns that nervous governments might overreact with border closures.

While the risk of regional spread remains high the risk outside the region remains low, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said after the announcement in Geneva. "The (international emergency) should not be used to stigmatize or penalize the very people who are most in need of our help," he said.

This is the fifth such decla-



In this photograph taken Sunday July 14, 2019, an Ebola victim is put to rest at the Muslim cemetery in Beni, Congo DRC.

Associated Press

ration in history. Previous emergencies were declared for the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people, the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic and polio eradication.

WHO defines a global emergency as an "extraordinary event" which constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response. Last month this outbreak spilled across the border for the first time when a family brought the virus into Uganda after attending the burial in Congo of an infected relative. Even then, the expert committee advised against a declaration.

Alexandra Phelan, a global health expert at George-

town University Law Center, said Wednesday's declaration was long overdue.

"This essentially serves as a call to the international community that they have to step up appropriate financial and technical support," she said but warned that countries should be wary of imposing travel or trade restrictions.

"Those restrictions would actually restrict the flow of goods and health care workers into affected countries so they are counter-productive," she said. Future emergency declarations might be perceived as punishment and "might result in other countries not reporting outbreaks in the future, which puts us all at greater risk."

WHO had been heavily criticized for its sluggish response to the West Africa

outbreak, which it repeatedly declined to declare a global emergency until the virus was spreading explosively in three countries and nearly 1,000 people were dead. Internal documents later showed WHO held off partly out of fear a declaration would anger the countries involved and hurt their economies.

The current outbreak is spreading in a turbulent Congo border region where dozens of rebel groups are active and where Ebola had not been experienced before. Efforts to contain the virus have been hurt by mistrust by wary locals that has prompted deadly attacks on health workers. Some infected people have deliberately evaded health authorities.

The pastor who brought Ebola to Goma used sev-

eral fake names to conceal his identity on his way to the city, Congolese officials said. WHO on Tuesday said the man had died and health workers were scrambling to trace dozens of his contacts, including those who had traveled on the same bus.

There was no immediate reaction to WHO's emergency declaration from Congo's health ministry, which had lobbied against it.

"Calling for a (global emergency) to raise funds while ignoring the negative consequences for (Congo) is reckless," the ministry tweeted following an editorial by Britain's secretary of state for international development in favor of a declaration. Rory Stewart announced earlier this week that Britain would donate up to another \$63 million for the Ebola response and called for other countries, especially Francophone ones, to increase their support.

At a U.N. meeting on Ebola in Geneva on Tuesday, Congo's health minister, Dr. Oly Ilunga, said the outbreak was "not a humanitarian crisis" and that the risk of Ebola spreading to other cities or regions in Congo remained the same.

"Ebola is not rocket science, it's very simple," he said.

WHO has long called the regional Ebola risk "very high."

Earlier this week, Ugandan health officials said a Congolese fish trader had traveled to Uganda while sick and vomited several times at a local market. □

Fed up Puerto Ricans protest, demanding governor resign

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Karla Villalón has three elementary-age children and an 81-year-old grandmother.

Her kids have been uprooted twice in two years when first one school, then another, was closed by budget cuts under Gov. Ricardo Rosselló. Her grandmother, a retired teacher, is anguished over the possibility of losing her pension in future rounds of cutbacks.

Villalón was outraged when Rosselló's former education secretary was arrested and accused of steering millions in improper contracts to politically connected contractors. Then hundreds of pages of on-line chats between Rosselló and members of his administration leaked, revealing the men mocking women, the handicapped and victims of Hurricane Maria.

Villalón has had enough. "It's the final straw," the 31-year-old homemaker said as she prepared to march with thousands of other Puerto Ricans from the capital to the governor's residence Wednesday



Karla Villalón stands at Fortaleza Street near the executive mansion as she protests against governor Ricardo Rosselló, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Associated Press

day afternoon. "My kids' classrooms have mold in them.... There's just so much outrage that's been building over time."

That feeling was rippling across Puerto Rico Wednesday — the feeling of a people fed up with neglect from Washington and the U.S. territory's own government.

The island is mired in crises.

It is struggling to emerge from a debt-driven financial failure and receive federal funding to help recovery from Hurricane Maria. The September 2017 storm left thousands dead in its wake due to the collapse of the island's electrical system and a months-long failure to provide care to the elderly and medically vulnerable. Since then, hun-

dreds of schools have been closed to save money and a wide range of social services and pensions are being cut back, or are under threat.

"Puerto Rico has suffered so much and we can't deal with the cynicism of these leaders anymore," singer Ricky Martin said in a video message posted online. "Enough already. Enough

already."

Martin said he was flying to Puerto Rico to march along with other Latin music stars from the island, including singer/producer Benito A. Martínez Ocasio, known as Bad Bunny, and rapper René Pérez, known as Residente, who released a song online Wednesday morning calling people to the streets.

"This is coming out early so you can eat it for breakfast," Residente raps on the song, "Sharpening the Knives." "Fury is the only political party that unites us." In colonial Old San Juan, police were erecting concrete barricades and shop owners were covering store windows with metal sheeting or plywood as if a hurricane were coming. The multi-colored umbrellas that form a photogenic awning over the street in front of the governor's mansion were taken down. The scandal erupted as Rosselló's former secretary of education and five other people were arrested on charges of steering federal money to unqualified, politically connected contractors. □

Rio governor: rising police killings 'normal,' will continue

By **MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA**

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)

Amid a soaring number of police killings in Rio de Janeiro, the state's tough-talking governor said Tuesday that it was "normal" for the rate to increase and will likely keep rising during his administration.

Gov. Wilson Witzel said the high number of killings by police in the state of Rio is a consequence of his policy of "confronting terrorists," as he calls drug trafficking groups.

"It is normal" that there are more deaths, said Witzel, who is known for his controversial comments and ties to far right President Jair Bolsonaro. "We live in a situation of confrontation and the criminals are testing the limits of the police and the government."



In this Jan. 3, 2019 file photo, Rio de Janeiro Gov. Wilson Witzel attends the swearing-in ceremony for the new president of state-run oil company Petrobras, Roberto Castello Branco, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Police in Rio killed 714 people in the first five months of his year - almost five a day - 20% more than in 2018, according to official figures.

The governor, a former judge with a military past, shrugged off the increase,

saying it is due to police "hitting hard" at criminals.

Witzel also said "an investigation will soon reveal" that one of the largest criminal factions in Brazil, which controls drug trafficking in many Rio slums - the Red

Command - has ties to Hezbollah. He provided no evidence to support the claim.

"Are we going to be tolerant toward Hezbollah, which acts with bombs and missiles against the population of Israel? No, we are going to act with rigor, as does Israel," he said.

"The message is: If you do not want to die, do not walk with a rifle in the street," he said during a meeting with foreign correspondents.

According to official figures, police lethality in Rio has reached its highest level since 2003, when records began. Homicides by criminals have fallen by 24% so far this year.

Witzel went from being almost unknown in Brazil to being the governor of Rio, one of the largest states in the country, with his discourse of zero tolerance for

criminals resonating with voters in the violent state. During his campaign he proposed using helicopters as platforms for sharpshooters, who could target anyone carrying a weapon.

Mauricio Santoro, a political scientist at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said the rise of Witzel should be seen in the context of a generalized disbelief in the political class and an economic crisis that battered the state.

"Like Bolsonaro, Witzel - an unknown - benefited from the current idea that the entire political elite is corrupt and incapable of offering an alternative," Santoro said. "Many (voters) chose a harsh approach as a manifestation of their despair and the lack of government perspectives" on the violence impacting them. □



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The Hilton Aruba is quite refreshing with its always present, yet local touch combined with international appearance. History was made in 1959 when Aruba's first luxury hotel opened its doors: the Aruba Caribbean Hotel. The low rise building has a huge open-air lobby in "Miami Modern" design with natural colors. The great American architect, Morris Lapidus, designed the resort. It is no surprise that he considered this one of his best designs out of the 276 he accomplished. After the Lago Oil Refinery had been the island's bread-and-butter for the last 30 years, a new industry was sought. This because during the 50's, the refinery's semi-automation decreased the need for human labor. That new industry was tourism. A pioneer on this new road to be taken was the now Hilton resort, at that time a celebrity hot spot. Today the Hilton Caribbean Resort & Casino has shown its consistency at the top by achieving the "2018 Hotel of the Year" award at the Hilton's Americas Leadership Conference, Orlando Florida.



Community Connection

Throughout the resort, vintage photographs from decades past will inspire your imagination and symbolize the resort's local connection. Oscar Henriquez was the key decision maker in the resort's planning in the 50's, the resort's market is named after him. More community connection, caricatures of the pioneers of the burgeoning hospitality industry, is seen on the Wall of Fame at Sunset Grille restaurant. When you stay at Hilton Aruba, it means contributing to local community. This is the only resort on the island with Team Members being shareholders in the company. The 60 days of celebration is also about giving back. As part of the resort's corporate social responsibility initiatives, the Team Members and leaders will be restoring a basketball court by De Vuyst in the town of San Nicolas. Let us close this local loyalty with a toast of an Aruba Ariba cocktail, the #1 drink on the island was invented at? You guessed right, the Hilton Aruba.

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Science, Technology and Innovation in Aruba

A Bop or a Flop?



Maastricht – Considering the times we are in, science, technology and innovation (STI) have been the focal point of strength of many developed nations in the world. Take for example the US, China, Korea, Russia, Japan and Europe. Now, for us smaller and less developed countries, or even islands, how will we catalyze on these developments for our future generations. STI are proven to be inseparable from developments in employment and production and it is especially essential to determine which types of innovation will best serve a community in attaining the threefold objective of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability engrained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Aruba has committed herself to these goals and the Aruban government has expressed that their goal is to keep the human being central, leaving no one behind. Also, innovation has been considered the main tool to accomplish this objective and have since 2017 made strategic steps into the future of innovation on the island. However, will this be enough?

I recently took notice of the first Makers Expo at the Biblioteca Nacional Aruba (BNA). An expo dedicated on technology and innovation, showcasing all the entities and professionals on Aruba that are currently dedicating their efforts towards innovation. The entire community of Aruba was invited to come and experience what technology could be or mean for our development. It was so nice to see how many children were there with their parents. Events like this could really inspire young men and women to consider Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) for better socio-economic development in Aruba.



Also, we know that the Aruban government has recently presented the 6 prospective economies for economic diversification, namely the Tourism Industry, Knowledge Economy, Agriculture Industry, Logistics Economy, Circular Economy, and the Creative Industries. Unlike the Tourism Industry, these economies will have to be developed from the bottom going up in order for them to be successful on the island. Also, the University of Aruba will be expanding shortly with a new "sustainable island solutions through science, technology, engineering and math" SISSTEM Faculty, where for the first time, Aruba will embark on a STI journey. However, what business environment do we have in place for this to work in Aruba? Are there companies in Aruba which focus on STEM skills and education? This new faculty, which again is a great step in the right direction, will need the environmental support of the private sector. If these students graduate in 3 to 4 years, where in Aruba can they work? If the private sector is not supporting this new shift in academia we will once again educate students to eventually leave due to a lack of job opportunities.

Aruba wants to build a knowledge economy through the presence of the SISSTEM Faculty, which in simple terms means that knowledge is considered economically valuable, thus it has a price tag to it. The aim is to then export the knowledge (on anything really) and gain economic revenue. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics in the 1st QRT of 2019, Aruba's export rate is approximately 36.3 million (not so much). But globally if we learn from the previously mentioned developed countries, part

of the knowledge export always includes high-tech knowledge and/or products. Each country's positioning in the global economy and value chain depends on its ability to absorb knowledge and move closer to the technology and innovation frontier. Now, where do Latin America and the Caribbean stand in this respect? Unfortunately, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in their latest report on STI developments: "Science, Technology and Innovation in the Digital Economy: The State of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean" (2016) "despite the progress made, indicators of innovation efforts and access to technology are not promising". ECLAC (2016) reaffirms this by explaining that "countries that base their competitiveness on exports of high-tech products require workers with advanced skills and high levels of investment in R&D, while maintaining close links between the production system and science and technology. High-tech sectors are less exposed to the entry of competitors, so they earn higher revenues. As a result, nearly all developed countries are exporters of technologically advanced products" (p.17). Now, it might be too far-fetched to think that in a couple years Aruba will be the next Silicon Valley, but the main operation for islands such as Aruba is to work on their absorptive capacity.

According to UNESCO (2019) "investment in science, technology and innovation is essential for economic development and social progress.

Continued on Page 16

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PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about. Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel king in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. **TONIGHT** has an extra magic: the live Violinist Angela performs! From traditional French and Italian famous melodies to more upbeat pop and rock and roll. A taste for everyone.

Bohemian Restaurant: Tonight live Violinist Angela

A garden full of strong trees and dressed up in New York-style industrial-look elements creates a cosmopolitan vibe while at the same time the tropical breeze and outside dining connect to the Caribbean. Waiters with French barrettes and pant suspenders service you with a happy and loose style with on the background the sounds of underground chill music varied with French classics.

ONLY French owned Restaurant
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Science, Technology and Innovation in Aruba

Continued from Page 14

Research and development (R&D) can foster sustainable development by building greener, more inclusive societies. To be effective, however, infrastructure development, technology transfer and both public and private R&D need to be nurtured and regulated via effective policies". So, let's recap for a moment, Aruba will soon have a SISSTEM faculty, thus we are working on the human capital aspect, making sure we have skilled workers in STEM in the future. Also, we have work to do on making Aruba more attractive to foreign investors, even though we do have favorable characteristics as an island. Aruba is limited in the STEM private sector, thus there are limited companies that focus on STEM developments. Aruba has a national economic policy, a national innovation framework, but has nothing on science and technology, which are important components before addressing innovation as a whole.

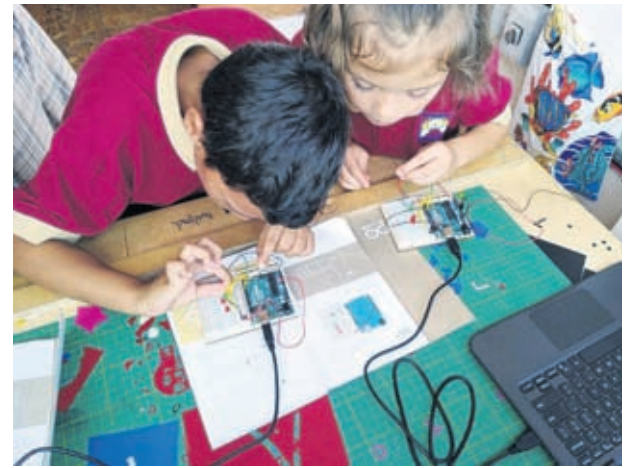
But, now I ask myself, how will we innovate, not only for the "fun of it", but innovate to the point we can see an economic impact, if we are not investing in R&D both in the public and private sectors? There are no traces of public data on how much Aruba is spending on R&D, because probably it is very limited or even unknown. There are numerous ways how the government could stimulate R&D, for example by creating a tax regulation for entrepreneurs and businesses

who could benefit from R&D and would then get an incentive for doing so. In the knowledge economy or even in the creative industry, innovating in processes, such as e-government, will for sure make the easy of doing business better or even fight corruption, but it will not automatically make Aruba successful in developing a knowledge economy.

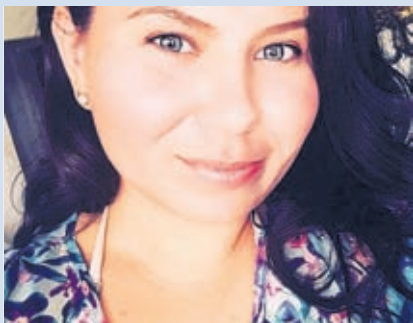
Now maybe you are asking yourself what R&D looks like. Well, ECLAC (2016) explains that "research and development includes all creative work undertaken systematically to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of mankind, culture and society, and its use to devise new applications. This definition involves three activities: basic research, applied research and experimental development, which are defined as follows:

- (i) Basic research is systematic original, theoretical or experimental work aimed at increasing the knowledge of a phenomenon or fact without considering any practical or direct application.
- (ii) Applied research also consists of original systematic work but, unlike the previous category, seeks to resolve a specific need or practical problem.
- (iii) Experimental development is aimed at new or improved production of materials, products, devices, processes or systems" (p. 25).

Basic research might be the most frequent type



of research performed frequently on the island, thankfully due to the higher academic institutions on the island. But, I wonder how many of these research reports are used in practice? How many students who graduate, can count on their research findings and recommendations to be utilized? Does the private sector consider the fact that they can utilize research results for their benefit? Do they know how to locate research papers on the island? Now with the SISSTEM faculty, we can venture more into applied research and experimental development, thus diversifying our R&D scope. But, unless as a country we understand the importance of R&D both in the public and private sector, we will have many challenges innovating. Overall, a complete and rigorous STI policy and cohesive national infrastructure between public, private, academic, non-government entities is something Aruba should consider going forward, because we can't afford staying behind in this globalized world any longer. □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 23-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.



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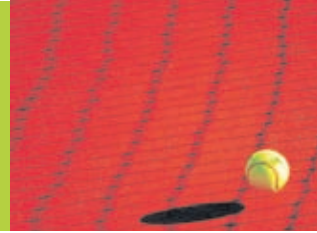
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SPORTS



Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell speaks during a press conference ahead of the start of the British Open golf championships at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

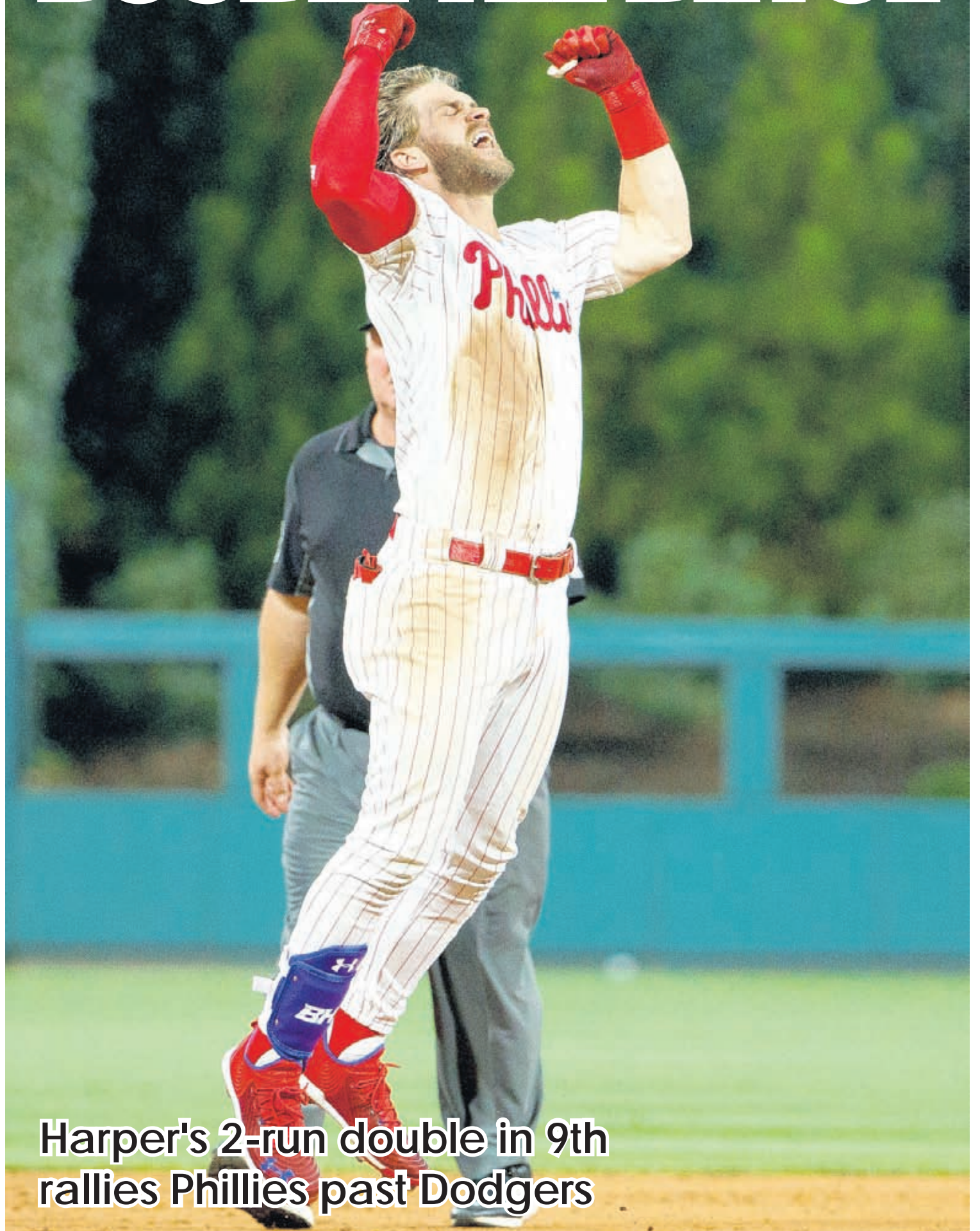
A homecoming for McDowell, the golfing son of Portrush

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland (AP) — Inside the entrance to Rathmore Golf Club, just past a sign offering umbrellas for sale on a rainy day, sits a replica of the U.S. Open trophy the club's favorite son won at Pebble Beach in 2010.

A large painting of Graeme McDowell hangs next to the bar, just in case anyone at the working man's club on the grounds of the more exclusive Royal Portrush needed to be reminded where he tagged along with his dad as a little kid and fell in love with the game. It was in the bar where friends and fans crowded in to celebrate until the sun came up when McDowell won his only major championship, sneaking liquor in because it was way past closing time. It's where he's back this week, playing next door at Royal Portrush in a British Open that Rathmore members are desperately hoping he can win at home.

Continued on Next Page

DOUBLE THE BRYCE



Harper's 2-run double in 9th rallies Phillies past Dodgers

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper celebrates after hitting a game-winning two-run double off Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Kenley Jansen during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 16, 2019, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won 9-8.

Associated Press

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"If we get the result we want on Sunday, we may not close the lounge until October," said Robb Doherty, a retired police detective who serves as the club's treasurer. "It's very much a rags to riches story for Graeme, through both talent and hard work."

The British Open is back in Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years, with a trio of local players in the field. Rory McIlroy lives nearby, and 2011 champion Darren Clarke now lives in Portrush itself.

But it is McDowell who is the true hometown hero. The son of a grammar school shop teacher, he honed his game at Rathmore and on the adjoining Royal Portrush links.

And, out of the three, it is McDowell who came precariously close to not making an Open he desperately wanted to be in. If not for a rebounding game and one extraordinary putt he might have been moping at home in Florida instead of teeing off Thursday morning with a legitimate chance of winning a tournament he wants more than any other.

"It would be too bitter-sweet," McDowell said about his close call. "It would be too tough to watch the guys go out there and compete on this place where I kind of learned the game."



Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell hits his net shot off the 12th during a practice round ahead of the start of the British Open golf championships at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

It would have been especially tough because McDowell was one of the Irish players who kept pestering the R&A to bring the Open back to Portrush for the first time since 1951, something that was once impossible because of "The Troubles" and fears that there was not enough infrastructure to handle 200,000 fans in four days.

Their perseverance paid off five years ago when the R&A announced that it had awarded the Open to Royal Portrush.

"It started out as a joke,

why can't we go back to Portrush," McDowell said. "I think The R&A couldn't ignore the fact that this could be a commercial success. The jokes became very serious. It was like, we can do this, we can pull it off."

Thankfully for McDowell the work he began putting into his game after dropping off the golf radar paid enough dividends to get him in the Open after not qualifying for the last two. He won a secondary tournament in the Dominican Republic early this year to move up in the rankings, then made

a curling 30-footer on the final hole at the Canadian Open to secure his spot.

It came only after the 39-year-old had a talk with himself about the state of the game he's loved since he was a kid.

"I said, hey, if you continue to play the way you're playing, this game is going to be gone a hell of a lot quicker than you thought it was going to be gone. What's that going to feel like?" McDowell said. "I think coming to that realization helped me because it made me start to embrace the challenge

a little bit more, enjoy the time I have left out here. I started to kind of get less frustrated and start to, like I say, start to enjoy the act of trying to pull myself out of the hole I dug for myself. And it's weird, the fog started to lift a little bit."

For McDowell returning home means he can't walk two steps without someone offering him encouragement or asking for a selfie. He said he was stunned by the noise made when he walked onto the first tee Tuesday for a practice round, and the crowds will be even bigger when he tees off for real on Thursday. His expectations for the week go far beyond just making the cut.

"If I can somehow get out of the blocks tomorrow, get myself settled down, and get into the mix this weekend, it would be pretty cool to be coming back down on Sunday," he said. "That's the vision. That's the goal and I can't wait to hear what it sounds like."

That's the vision at Rathmore Golf Club, too, where business in the lounge was brisk on a rainy Wednesday as golf fans stopped for a pint or two to get out of the rain. Mostly, though, they're just happy he's home and teeing it up when it counts.

"It wouldn't have felt the same at all without Graeme in the field," Doherty said. "Here, Graeme is still one of the boys." □

Canadians Henderson, Sharp lead LPGA Tour team event

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP) — Canadians Brooke Henderson and Alena Sharp shot a 5-under 65 in alternate-shot play Wednesday to take the first-round lead in the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, the LPGA Tour's first-year team event.

Henderson and Sharp had seven birdies and two bogeys at Midland Country Club.

"We really got it going, kind of fed off each other," Henderson said. "She hit some good shots, I made some putts and vice versa. So it really worked out nice and it's a good way to start."

Paula Creamer and Morgan Pressel were a stroke back.

"We're best of friends we've

played a lot of team events together, so it's nothing new for us to be able to come out here," Creamer said. "We haven't played alternate shot for a little while, and when we have played it in the past, it's always match play and you never have to finish. Out here you actually have to shoot a score, which is a little bit different."

The teams will play best-ball Thursday, return to alternate shot Friday and close Saturday with a best-ball round.

"It's intense, but then we got out our tension and then we played and we were free-wheeling it," Sharp said. "I think the first few holes we didn't really

know what to expect and we had a lot of adrenaline, and then we calmed down and played really nicely together." The 21-year-old Henderson won the Meijer LPGA Classic a month ago in Grand Rapids to break the Canadian record for tour victories with nine. Also the Lotte Championship winner in April in Hawaii, Henderson broke a tie with Sandra Post for the Canadian record on the LPGA Tour and also moved ahead of George Knudson and Mike Weir for the overall country mark. The 38-year-old Sharp is winless on the LPGA Tour. The teams of Minjee Lee-Jin Young Ko, Robyn Choi-Jaclyn Lee, Jasmine Suwannapura-Cydney Clan-

ton and Amy Yang-Mirim Lee shot 67. "We chatted pretty much the whole way around," Lee said. "We usually don't get to get this opportunity to play with our friends too much, so I think that was the best part."

The sister duo of Nelly and Jessica Korda topped the group at 68.

"Start of the round, kind of just getting used to everything, the new format," Nelly Korda said. "Gave each other some good opportunities on the back and took advantage of a couple. Anything under par for alternate shot is good, so we're happy with that." Sisters Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn shot 70, and Cristie Kerr and Lexi Thomp-

son opened with a 71. Rookies Jennifer Kupcho and Maria Fassi also had a 71. They staged a memorable duel that Kupcho won at the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

"Alternate shot's always really hard. We knew that coming in and we didn't really know how it was going to go because we didn't try it," Kupcho said. "It went better than what I thought it was going to go, so I was pretty happy." Suzann Pettersen, making her first tour start after a 20-month break for the birth of her first child, and European Solheim Cup captain Catriona Matthew had a 73. Pettersen will be a vice caption for the European team. □

Bryce Harper drives in 5 runs, Phillies rally past Dodgers 9-8

By The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bryce Harper hit a two-run double off Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen with one out in the bottom of the ninth after pinch-hitter Matt Beaty hit a three-run homer off Philadelphia closer Hector Neris in the top half, rallying the Phillies to a 9-8 win over Los Angeles on Tuesday night. Pinch-hitter Andrew Knapp hit a double with one out in the bottom of the ninth and Cesar Hernandez singled. Scott Kingery followed with a bloop single to center that scored Knapp to get the Phillies within a run. Harper then ripped a ball to the gap that bounced off A.J. Pollock's glove and went to the wall. Cody Bellinger hit his major league-leading 34th homer and Max Muncy, A.J. Pollock and Joc Pederson also went deep for the Dodgers. Harper hit a three-run homer and drove in five RBIs, Brad Miller and Kingery also connected for the Phillies. Ranger Suarez (1-0) got two outs for the win. Jansen (3-3) has four blown saves in 24 tries.

MARLINS 12, PADRES 7
MIAMI (AP) — Brian Anderson hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Miami dealt San Diego its fourth straight loss. The Padres (45-49) fell four games under .500 for the first time this season. Harold Ramirez had two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored. Garrett Cooper hit his 11th homer and a two-run single, and Starlin Castro had a bases-loaded triple to make it 11-3 in the sixth. Jordan Yamamoto (4-0) struggled early and needed 99 pitches to get through five innings, but he gave up only two earned runs. Padres rookie Logan Allen (2-2) had his second rough start in a row, allowing seven runs in 2 1/3 innings. Franmil Reyes hit his 26th homer pinch-hitting in the ninth. San Diego teammate Manuel Margot hit his sixth homer.

PIRATES 3, CARDINALS 1
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Colin Moran drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single and Pittsburgh Pirates scored twice in the ninth to beat St. Louis. Francisco Liriano (4-1) pitched the eighth and earned the victory. Felipe Vazquez pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 21st save. Carlos Martinez (2-1) worked one inning of relief and took the loss. With the score tied 1-1 and one out in the top of the ninth, Starling Marte reached base when he was hit in the back with a pitch by Martinez. Josh Bell beat the shift with a single to the left side of second base, sending Marte to third. Moran hit a sharp grounder to Kolten Wong, who made a diving stop and rose to one knee, but his throw was not in time as Moran slid safely into first and Marte scored for a 2-1 lead.

Corey Dickerson walked, loading the bases. Kevin Newman hit a grounder to short, but the Cardinals failed to turn a double play, and Bell scored to give Pittsburgh a 3-1 lead.
CUBS 4, REDS 3, 10 INNINGS
CHICAGO (AP) — Kyle Schwarber hit a solo home run with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning to rally Chicago past Cincinnati. Schwarber stroked a 1-1 pitch from closer Raisel Iglesias (2-8) into the basket in front of the left field bleachers for his 21st homer. Robel Garcia and Kris Bryant also connected for the NL Central leaders, who have won six of eight. Eugenio Suárez homered for Cincinnati, which fell to 7-4 against Chicago this season. Steve Cishek (3-5) pitched the 10th and four Cubs relievers combined for four scoreless innings. New catcher Martín Maldonado, acquired Monday night by Chicago from Kansas City, started and went 0 for 4.
BREWERS 13, BRAVES 1
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Chris-

tian Yelich hit his second career grand slam, Keston Hiura and Lorenzo Cain each had a solo homer and Milwaukee routed Atlanta. Brandon Woodruff (11-3) gave up one run and five hits in 6 2/3 innings for the Brewers, who had lost eight of their previous 10 games. He walked one and struck out seven. Mike Moustakas picked up his 1,000th career hit with a single to right-center field in the seventh. Bryce Wilson (1-1) allowed four runs and six hits in four innings for the Braves. He became the youngest pitcher to start a game in the National League this



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper celebrates after hitting a game-winning two-run double off Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Kenley Jansen during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 16, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

season at 21 years, 208 days.

Tyler Flowers scored the lone run for the Braves on a solo homer in the fifth.

GIANTS 8, ROCKIES 4, 10 INNINGS

DENVER (AP) — Alex Dickerson had a career-best

four hits, including the go-ahead RBI single in San Francisco's four-run 10th inning. Mike Yastrzemski homered and doubled among his three hits and had three RBIs for the Giants, who have won seven of eight, including four in a row. □

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Pumpsie Green, 1st black player on Boston Red Sox, dies

BOSTON (AP) — Former Boston Red Sox infielder Elijah "Pumpsie" Green, the first black player on the last major league team to field one, has died. He was 85. A Red Sox spokesman confirmed the death Wednesday night, and the team observed a moment of silence before its game against the Toronto Blue Jays. Green, who was inducted into the Red Sox Hall of Fame in 2018, had been living in California. A speedy but light-hitting utilityman, Green brought baseball's segregation era to an end of sorts when he took the field against the Chicago White Sox on July 21, 1959 — more than a dozen years after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Green joined the team on a lengthy road trip and had played nine games before taking the field at Fenway Park for the first time. Green

said this year in an interview with NESN, the Red Sox TV network, that he remembered receiving a standing ovation when he came to the plate, batting leadoff. "It was heart-warming and nerve-wracking," he told reporters in 1997, when he returned to Boston to take part in ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of Robinson's debut. "But I got lucky: I hit a triple off the left-center fence." Green didn't have Hall of Fame talent like Robinson, or Larry Doby, an All-Star who was the first black player in the American League. The Red Sox infielder reached the majors as a role player, just once playing more than 88 games, and never hitting more than six homers or batting better than .278. Green played parts of four seasons with the Red Sox before finishing his five-year career with the New York Mets, batting .246 overall

with a total of 13 homers and 74 RBIs. But his first appearance in a Boston uniform ended baseball's ugliest chapter, and the fact that it took the Red Sox so long left a stain on the franchise it is still trying to erase. A few days after Green was called up, the Red Sox added Earl Wilson, a black pitcher. Green said there was an informal quota system that required teams to have an even number of black players so they would have someone to room with on the road. There were few blacks in the clubhouse, the offices or the Boston stands, Green said in '97. "Most of the time it was just me," he said. "It was almost an oddity when you saw a black person walking around the stands." But unlike Robinson, Green said, he received no death threats. "It was mostly insults," he said.



In this April 19, 2009, file photo, Boston Red Sox great Elijah "Pumpsie" Green throws out a ceremonial first pitch for the Red Sox's baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Boston.

Associated Press

"But you can get those at any ballpark at any time," he said. "I learned to tune things out." Green returned to northern California and worked as a counselor at Berkeley High School before retiring in the 1990s. The Red Sox honored him again before a game in 2009, but he was unable to attend the ceremony in 2018 when he was inducted into the Red Sox Hall of

Fame. Upon his return to Fenway, he noticed that things had improved, but he still saw work to be done. "Baseball still has its problems, and so does society," Green said. "I don't believe things are that much better in baseball or society. Hopefully, it will be shortly." A brother, Cornell Green, was a star safety for the Dallas Cowboys. □

Judge, Gregorius lift Yanks over Rays after CC starts fracas

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, Didi Gregorius followed with a grand slam as New York beat Tampa Bay after another surly clash between CC Sabathia and the Rays.

Judge smashed a 3-2 pitch from left-hander Colin Poche (2-3) into the right-center field seats to make it 4-3. It was Judge's 10th homer.

Gregorius took a curtain call after hitting a long grand slam. Edwin Encarnación hit his 28th homer, DJ LeMahieu also went deep, and New York stretched its AL East lead over Tampa Bay to six games.

Yandy Díaz hit a solo homer and an RBI double, and Austin Meadows hit his 14th homer for Tampa Bay.

Benches cleared during the sixth inning amid a shouting match between Sabathia and hitter Avisail García. After Sabathia struck out García looking to strand two runners, the 38-year-old barked and pointed at García. Sabathia was restrained by Gregorius and never got close to García while both benches and bullpens emptied. No punches were thrown.

David Hale (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for New York.

BLUE JAYS 10, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP) — Teoscar Hernández hit a three-run homer off new Boston starter Andrew Cashner, and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had three hits to lead Toronto. Gurriel had a single, double and triple, and Justin Smoak also homered for Toronto, which lost three of its previous four games.

Cashner (9-4) was acquired from the Orioles on Saturday. He failed to get an out in the sixth, allowing six runs — five earned — on eight hits and two walks, striking out two. He also gave up two homers, hit a batter and threw a wild pitch on a third strike.

Xander Bogaerts had a single, double and home run, and Mookie Betts also had three hits for Boston, which fell 10 games behind the



New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius, right, restrains Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia during the sixth inning of the team's baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Tuesday, July 16, 2019, in New York. Sabathia and Rays' Avisail García had words, then benches and bullpens cleared.

Associated Press

first-place New York Yankees in the AL East.

Justin Shafer (1-1) got the win. Toronto broke it open with four runs in the ninth.

NATIONALS 8, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP) — Matt Adams and Juan Soto homered and rookie Austin Voth extended a streak of strong performances by Washington's rotation in a win over neighboring Baltimore.

Washington has won 13 of 16.

Voth (1-0) allowed one run and four hits over six innings. He walked one and hit two batters, all in an eventful but scoreless first inning.

Adams's home run off Asher Wojciechowski (0-3) made him the 102nd player in the 28-year history of Camden Yards to hit a ball onto Eutaw Street, beyond the right field wall and in front of the B&O Warehouse.

Hanser Alberto homered for the lone run for Baltimore.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, RANGERS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Rookie Alex Young allowed one run in 5 1/3 innings to help Arizona beat Texas.

Young (3-0) gave up three hits and one walk to defeat Lance Lynn (12-5), who went into the game with an 8-0 home record this season and led the majors in wins. Young struck out four and was lifted following 79

pitches.

The Diamondbacks have won five of seven.

Ketel Marte's two-run single with the bases loaded in the fifth inning broke a 1-1 tie for Arizona. Ildemaro Vargas added a two-run home run, and the Diamondbacks scored four times in the ninth inning aided by two Rangers errors. The Rangers have lost nine of their last 13 games.

ROYALS 11, WHITE SOX 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Glenn Sparkman pitched a five-hitter for his first career complete game, Whit Merrifield and Hunter Dozier each had three hits including a home run as Kansas City blanked Chicago.

Sparkman (3-5) walked one and had a career-high eight strikeouts in the Royals' first complete-game shutout since June 2, 2017, when Jason Vargas beat Cleveland 4-0.

Kansas City improved to 4-1 since the All-Star break and dropped the White Sox to 0-5.

Merrifield raced to an inside-the-park homer down the right-field line in the fourth inning after Cam Gallagher doubled.

Dozier hit a two-run, 447-foot homer to left field in the eighth inning to cap a four-run inning and finish the scoring.

Chicago starter Dylan Cease (1-1) gave up six

runs — four earned — and eight hits in six innings. He walked one and struck out seven.

METS 3, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Michael Conforto went 4 for 4 and drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the fifth inning, helping New York over Minnesota.

Conforto even made the defensive play of the game, a graceful leaping grab at the top of the wall in left-center to end the third with a runner on and take away a potential homer from Nelson Cruz. Jonathan Schoop homered for the Twins.

Luis Avilán (2-0) picked up the victory. Edwin Díaz survived a tense ninth for his 21st save in 25 attempts. Michael Pineda (6-5) allowed one earned run for the fifth time in his last six starts. Pineda finished six innings for the third straight turn, allowing six hits without a walk.

INDIANS 8, TIGERS 0

CLEVELAND (AP) — Oscar Mercado hit a two-run homer and Zach Plesac and three relievers combined for a one-hitter as Cleveland beat Detroit.

Nicholas Castellanos accounted for the Tigers' only hit with a leadoff single up the middle in the fifth inning off Tyler Clippard. Detroit had two baserunners and sent 28 batters to the

plate — one above the minimum.

Plesac worked the first three innings, while Clippard, Nick Goody and Tyler Olson pitched two innings apiece. Plesac walked Victor Reyes to begin the game, then erased him with his MLB-leading fifth pickoff.

Goody (1-0) retired six straight batters in the sixth and seventh to earn his first victory since June 17, 2017. Mercado hit a two-run shot and Francisco Lindor added a two-run double in a five-run second inning, as Cleveland bolted to a 7-0 lead through three.

ATHLETICS 9, MARINERS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — All-Star Matt Chapman homered and had five RBIs and Oakland won its fifth straight.

Matt Olson followed Chapman's fifth-inning drive with a solo homer that extended his hitting streak to 11 games, marking the seventh time the A's hit back-to-back homers this year. Daniel Mengden (5-1) allowed one run and four hits over seven impressive innings, striking out three and not walking a batter for the third straight start.

Omar Narvaez hit two homers for the Mariners.

Mariners lefty Marco Gonzales (10-8) was tagged for six runs and seven hits over six innings. He struck out five and walked one in Seattle's fifth consecutive loss.

ANGELS 7, ASTROS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Albert Pujols hit a bases-clearing double during a six-run first inning and Los Angeles remained unbeaten in five games since the All-Star break.

Mike Trout missed his second straight game with a mildly strained right calf, but Shohei Ohtani and Luis Rengifo also drove in first-inning runs in Los Angeles' eighth victory in 11 games since the death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.

Tyler White had three hits and an RBI in the Astros' fourth loss in six games. Their division lead over Oakland is down to 4½ games, matching their smallest advantage since May 9. □



Australia's Caleb Ewan celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 167 kilometers (103,77 miles) with start in Albi and finish in Toulouse, France, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

A long wait, but finally a Tour win for sprint prodigy Ewan

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — A bit more than a year ago, Caleb Ewan was devastated to be left out of the Tour de France.

The Australian sprinter had to watch cycling's biggest race on TV after finding out at the last minute that his Mitchelton-Scott team was placing all its bets on Adam Yates in the fight for the yellow jersey, and would leave Ewan at home.

A year later, Ewan earned his first Tour victory by edging a close sprint on Stage 11 in Toulouse on Wednesday.

"I was ready for the Tour three of four years ago, I always wanted to go straight to the top races," said Ewan, whose daughter was born just before the race started. "I've been held back, I finally got my chance."

Ewan switched teams to Lotto-Soudal this season to replace veteran German sprinter Andre Greipel, and the ambitious youngster was, at last, promoted to a team leader role this summer in France.

But the pressure was big on Ewan, a winner of 36 professional races — including stages at the Spanish Vuelta and Giro d'Italia.

After coming close in previous stages with three third-place finishes and a runner-up spot, he finally delivered by edging one of the peloton's fastest men. The 25-year-old Australian beat fellow sprinter Dylan Groenewegen by a tire's width and was awarded the victory after photo finish. Elia Viviani placed third ahead of three-time world champion Peter Sagan.

Ewan perfectly timed his effort after Groenewegen launched his effort on the left side of the road. Ewan took the wheel of his Dutch rival and pipped him to the line. "It was super hectic," said Ewan, who has now completed wins at all three Grands Tours. "I ended up in Groenewegen's wheel coming out of that corner. It's a hard thing being with Dylan and I knew it was not going to be easy to beat him. I felt I should let him get a bit of a gap so I could sprint in his slipstream, and I could pass him quite quick. I'm happy that this time I was a few centimeters ahead of him."

The win also made up for having to leave Australia just after the birth of his daughter Lily. He thanked his wife for letting him go

and compete in France in such circumstances.

"She let me come here and leave my young baby in hospital," Ewan said. "It's the hardest thing I had to do, to come here to race and leave my daughter in hospital."

With the race heading into the Pyrenees over the next four stages, the main favorites did not take any risks Wednesday and there were no significant changes in the overall standings. Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe kept the yellow jersey, 1 minute, 12 seconds ahead of defending champion Geraint Thomas. Thomas' teammate Egan Bernal, the Ineos co-leader, remained in third place, a further four seconds behind.

"I've prepared myself for attacks to take place, whether from the favorites or other riders who want to gain time," Alaphilippe said.

The coming days could be crucial in determining the next Tour champion. Following Thursday's stage and its two first-category climbs, Thomas — an excellent time-trial specialist — will have a chance to gain time on his rivals in the only individual race against the clock this year. □



Gold medalist Ana Marcela Cunha of Brazil stands with her medal after the women's 5km open water swim at the World Swimming Championships in Yeosu, South Korea, Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Brazilian Cunha wins women's 5K open water at world titles

GWANGJU, South Korea (AP) — Ana Marcela Cunha improved on her already impressive career in open-water swimming at the world championships with a win in the 5-kilometer race on Wednesday.

It was the 27-year-old Brazilian's fourth gold and 10th medal overall at the world championships since 2011. Cunha, who was consistently in the top 10 throughout the race, pulled away in the final 300 meters to finish in 57 minutes, 56.00 seconds, a second ahead of Aurelie Muller of France. There was a tie for the bronze medal: American Hannah Moore and Leonie Beck of Germany both finished in 57:58, two seconds behind Cunha in the non-Olympic event.

Defending 5-kilometer world champion Ashley Twichell of the U.S. placed seventh.

Cunha has won the 25-kilometer race three times at the worlds, but this was her first gold at the 5-kilometer distance. Her previous best finishes over five kilometers were bronze medals at Barcelona in 2013 and at Budapest in 2017.

On Sunday, Cunha finished fifth in the 10-kilometer race to earn a Tokyo Olympics berth for 2020. At the Olympics, only the 10-kilometer distances for men and women will be staged. "In the 10k, I really wasn't

happy with that result," Cunha said. "Today my strategy was to swim a bit more relaxed in the first half. I was behind the girls until the third lap when I started to move up. In the final lap, I just got myself to where I needed to be."

Moore was thrilled with her tie for the bronze medal at her first world titles.

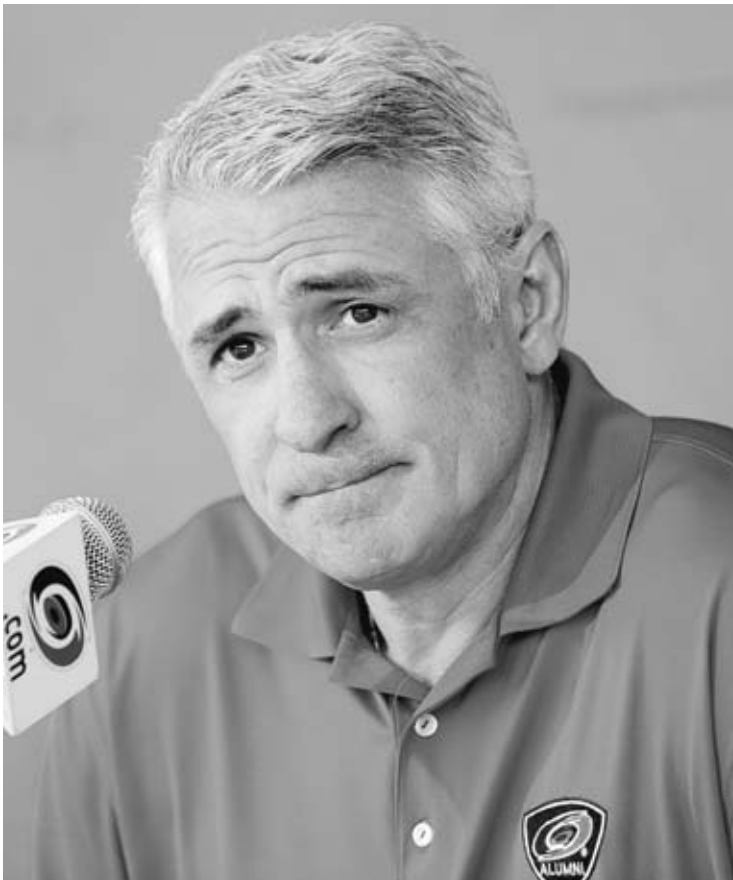
"This has by far exceeded my expectations," the American said. "I knew it would be really rough, just based on watching the other races. The girls went out really fast, so I tried to stay calm and be a little braver than I wanted to be, and it worked out in the end."

She said she was inspired by the performances of her American teammates in Gwangju.

"Watching Haley (Anderson) win a silver medal in the 10k and to see that she and Ashley (Twichell) both achieved the Olympic qualification in the 10k really fired me up," Moore said. "I just got into this sport last year and I'm kind of learning from them."

All 54 starters completed Wednesday's race.

The open water races continue Thursday with the 5-kilometer team relay. The 25-kilometer races for men and women, also non-Olympic events, conclude the open-water program on Friday. □



In this May 5, 2014, file photo, Ron Francis, at the time the general manager of the Carolina Hurricanes, takes questions from members of the media during a news conference in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

AP source: Seattle close to naming Ron Francis as GM

By TIM BOOTH

SEATTLE (AP)—Seattle's NHL expansion team is close to an agreement with Hockey Hall of Famer Ron Francis to become its first general manager, a person with direct knowledge tells The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the team had not made an announcement. The expansion Seattle franchise is set to begin play in the 2021-22 season as the NHL's 32nd team.

After longtime Detroit GM Ken Holland went to Edmonton, adviser Dave Tippett left Seattle Hockey Partners LLC to become Oilers coach and Vegas' Kelly McCrimmon and Columbus' Bill Zito got promotions, there was a limited pool of experienced NHL executives to choose from for this job. Francis fits that bill.

The 56-year-old has been in hockey operations since shortly after the end of his Hall of Fame playing ca-

reer. All of that time has come with the Carolina Hurricanes, including four seasons as their GM.

Carolina didn't make the playoffs with Francis in charge of decision-making, though his moves put the foundation in place for the team that reached the Eastern Conference final this past season.

Francis had 1,798 points in 1,731 games over 23 seasons with the Hartford Whalers/Hurricanes, Pittsburgh Penguins and Toronto Maple Leafs. He won the Stanley Cup with Pittsburgh in 1991 and 1992.

Competing for the Cup in the early going will be the expectation for Seattle after the Golden Knights reached the Final in their inaugural season in 2017-18. Francis will have two full seasons to scout the rest of the league before his as-yet-named team's expansion draft in June 2021.

Francis did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. □



In this April 13, 2017, file photo, Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons speaks with members of the media at the team's NBA basketball training facility in Camden, N.J.

Associated Press

Simmons backflips, withdraws from Australia's World Cup squad

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Ben Simmons' new contract extension with the Philadelphia 76ers came with bad news for Australian basketball fans: The Melbourne-born NBA All-star won't play for the Boomers at the World Cup. Hours after Simmons and the 76ers agreed to a \$170 million, five-year contract extension on Tuesday, Simmons said he preferred to spend time with his new teammates in September instead of travelling to China for the Aug. 31-Sept. 15 World Cup.

"I wanted to let everyone know that after consulting with my representation, I've made the difficult decision to forego playing in the World Cup in China," Simmons said in a statement.

"Ultimately, we decided it was best that I use the time

in September to return to Philadelphia to acquaint myself with my new teammates and prepare for the upcoming NBA season."

Simmons had been selected for Australia's World Cup squad and had earlier indicated he planned to play the tournament in China. He now plans to play only for the Boomers in two exhibition games against the United States in Melbourne on Aug. 22 and 24 at a stadium that is expected to be sold out — 50,000 fans — for each game. He also said the Olympics next year in Tokyo remain on his schedule. "I will still be heading back home to Australia to host my camps as well as train and play with the Boomers in the upcoming exhibition games," Simmons said. "I'm really excited about the talent

we have on the Boomers squad, especially moving closer to 2020 where I will be honored and humbled to represent my country on the world's biggest sporting stage at the Olympics in Tokyo." Simmons was the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2016. He made his NBA debut in the 2017-18 season and was the Rookie of the Year. He was an All-Star for the first time last season. He has averaged 16.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.9 assists in his two seasons.

Australia's World Cup lineup is set to feature San Antonio's Patty Mills, Joe Ingles of Utah Jazz, Phoenix center Aron Baynes, Cleveland's Matthew Dellavedova, former No. 1 draft pick Andrew Bogut, Detroit center-forward Thon Maker and Simmons' 76ers teammate Jonah Bolden. □

Myths and risks in app that gives you peek into older self

BY RACHEL LERMAN

AP Technology Writer

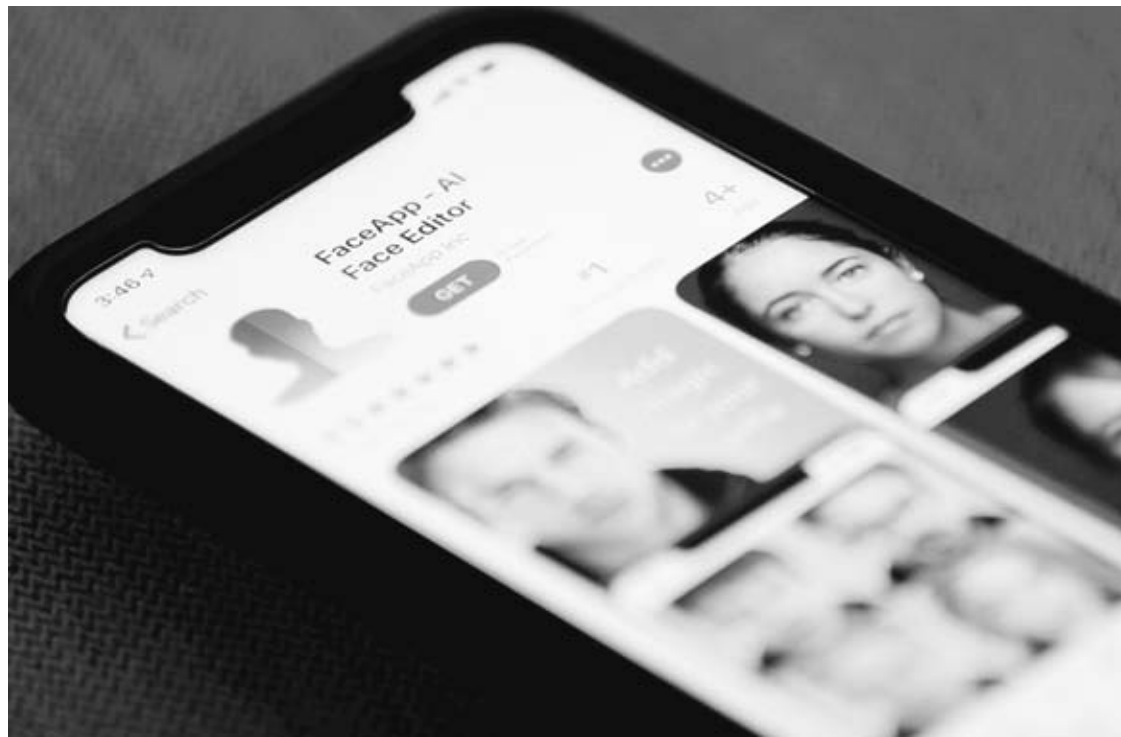
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Is a peek into the future worth your privacy in the present? That concern was pushed to the spotlight this week with the resurgence of a smartphone app that uses artificial intelligence to transform your current face into your younger and older selves.

People raised fears on Twitter and other social media sites that on iPhones, FaceApp would be able to see and upload all your photos, including screenshots with sensitive financial or health information or photos of kids with the names of their schools in the background. That's not actually true, but the scuttle serves as a good reminder to think twice before downloading new apps.

Even large, mainstream apps routinely collect user data. But many trendy-at-the-moment apps are guilty of mining user data as a primary purpose. Some personality quizzes on Facebook and similar services collect user information as a business, opening people up to breaches such as in the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

As for FaceApp, the app



FaceApp is displayed on an iPhone Wednesday, July 17, 2019, in New York. The popular app is under fire for privacy concerns.

Associated Press

grabs a photo only if you specifically select it to see your face change, security researcher and Guardian Firewall CEO Will Strafach said.

The confusion comes from an iPhone feature that shows your photo library within the app. It is an Apple feature that lets you select a specific photo, but doesn't give the app full access to the library, even though it may appear that way.

You have the option of granting access to your entire photo library, but even then, there is no evidence the app is uploading anything other than the photo selected.

"I'm always looking for privacy concerns," said Strafach, who used a network analyzer tool to track what was happening. "When it's not happening, it's not happening."

There's a version of FaceApp for Android, but those

phones don't tap photo libraries the same way.

That's not to say the app isn't free of problems, Strafach said.

Among other things, photos get sent to the cloud for processing in both the iPhone and Android versions, exposing them to hacking and other problems. FaceApp does not explicitly tell users that the photos are being sent to the cloud. Some apps try to limit exposure by doing

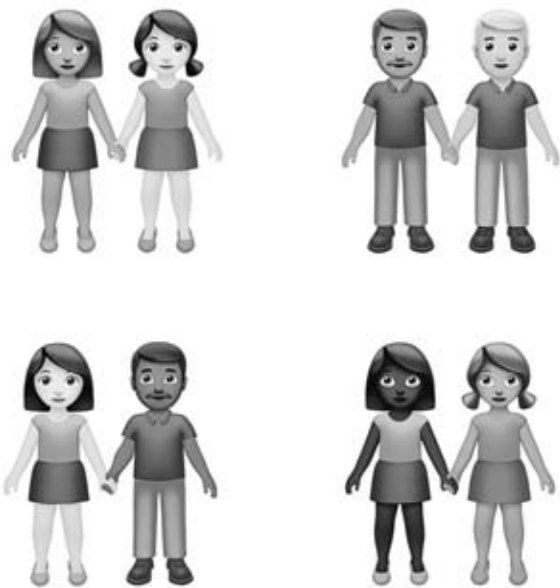
the processing on the devices themselves, not in the cloud.

FaceApp's privacy policy also says it is using data from the app to serve targeted ads and to develop new products and features. It says it does not sell data to third party apps, but lists many exceptions including one that allows it to share data after removing information that identifies users. FaceApp, which is developed in Russia by Wireless Lab, has had surges of viral popularity before. The app also allows people to swap their genders or add facial hair or makeup.

Wireless Lab told technology news site TechCrunch that it may store users' photos in the cloud, but "most" are deleted after 48 hours. It said no user data is transferred to Russia.

The company has not responded to questions from The Associated Press. It told TechCrunch that users can request to have their data deleted.

Even with those admissions, Strafach urged people to resist the pull of the app. He said the app should have been upfront and told users it was processing photos in the cloud rather than on phones. □



This image provided by Apple shows new emoji's released by Apple.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Associated Press

Apple and Google are roll-

ing out dozens of new emoji that include cute critters, of course, but also expand

Apple, Google continue inclusive push with new emoji

the number of images of human diversity.

Apple Inc. is releasing new variants of its holding hands emoji that allow people to pick any combination of skin tone and gender, 75 possible combinations in all. There are also wheelchairs, prosthetic arms and legs, as well as a new guide dog and an ear with a hearing aid.

And then there's the sloth, the flamingo, the skunk, the orangutan, as well as a new yawning emoji.

Google, meanwhile, will offer 71 versions of couples with different skin tones once the additions are completed. Google is also adding an emoji for the

Diya lamp so that Diwali can be celebrated alongside Christmas and Thanksgiving.

New emoji routinely pop up every year. Earlier this year the Unicode Consortium approved 71 new variations of emoji for couples of color. Apple and Google unveiled their designs Wednesday to coincide with World Emoji Day.

Anyone can propose an emoji. But for it to make it to phones and computers, it has to be approved by Unicode. The nonprofit group, mostly made up of people from large tech companies like Apple, Google and Facebook, translates emoji into one standard, so that a

person in France, for example, can send an emoji or a text message to a person in the U.S. and it will look the same, no matter what brand of phone or operating system they use.

It's this group that ultimately weighs in on whether we get a sad pile of poop to complement the smiling one, or whether sliced bagel deserves an emoji alongside bread and croissant.

Apple's new emoji will be available in a few months with a free software update for the iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch. Google said its emoji will be released with Android Q later this year. □

Is there truly a need for a Roth 401(K)?

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

If you are saving for retirement, you probably know about the 401(k) and the Roth IRA too. But are you familiar with a Roth 401(k)? It's a bit of a mashup — a Roth product available through your traditional 401(k). It allows people to save after-tax money through their workplace plan that can then be withdrawn tax-free in retirement. Although it has been around for years, its availability has picked up steam of late.

There's no exact measure of how many plans provide it. But nearly 85% of mid-size and large employers had a Roth offering in their defined contribution plan in 2018, according to a survey by consulting firm Callan. That's up from nearly 62% in 2015. Adoption by employees remains fairly low, in part because of a lack of awareness.

Should you consider one?



In this Nov. 30, 2017, file photo people are silhouetted against an autumn sky walk along the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

A few things to know:

DEFINITION

A 401(k) is an employer-sponsored retirement plan that allows workers to set aside pretax money from

their paycheck for retirement. Some employers will match contributions up to a certain level. Because the money that goes in isn't taxed, it is taxed when with-

drawn. A Roth IRA, on the other hand, is an individual retirement plan that is typically established outside of the workplace, such as through a bank or invest-

ment firm. The money that goes in has already been taxed, so the withdrawals during retirement are tax free. The Roth 401(k) combines components of both, allowing it to be established within a workplace plan but with many perks of a Roth.

TAXES

A key benefit of a Roth 401(K) is that it provides tax-free income during retirement. In general, that means those who stand to benefit most are those whose tax bracket may be higher in retirement than it is now. That would include young workers with earning potential or even people who stand to have a large inheritance later on.

"The longer your time horizon, the more uncertainty you have so the idea of paying it (taxes) now is more attractive," said Nathan Voris, managing director of business strategy for Schwab Retirement Plan Services. □

Big losses for railroads pull industrial companies lower

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock indexes were posting slight losses in early trading on Wall Street Wednesday as a weak showing for railroad operator CSX pulled industrial companies broadly lower.

Banks were also falling as investors worry that lower interest rates will hurt their profits going forward.

Technology stocks bucked the downward trend and put up some solid gains. Qualcomm rose 0.6% following reports that the government asked a court to pause enforcement of an antitrust ruling. Microsoft, Intel and Adobe also rose.

Corporate earnings reports are getting into full swing this week, and investors have been mostly cautious in their assessments of them. Earnings are still expected to decline for S&P 500 companies in the second quarter.

CSX plunged 11.4% after saying it now expects its



In this July 1, 2019, file photo specialist Michael Gagliano, left, and trader Andrew Silverman work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

revenue to decline up to 2% this year, after previously saying it expected growth. Investors read that as trouble for the entire industry and sent the stock of other railroad operators

lower. Union Pacific sank 5.2% and Norfolk Southern dropped 5.5%.

Abbott Laboratories gained 4.2% and pushed health care stocks higher after the maker of infant

formula and drugs raised its financial forecast for the year. UnitedHealth Group also rose.

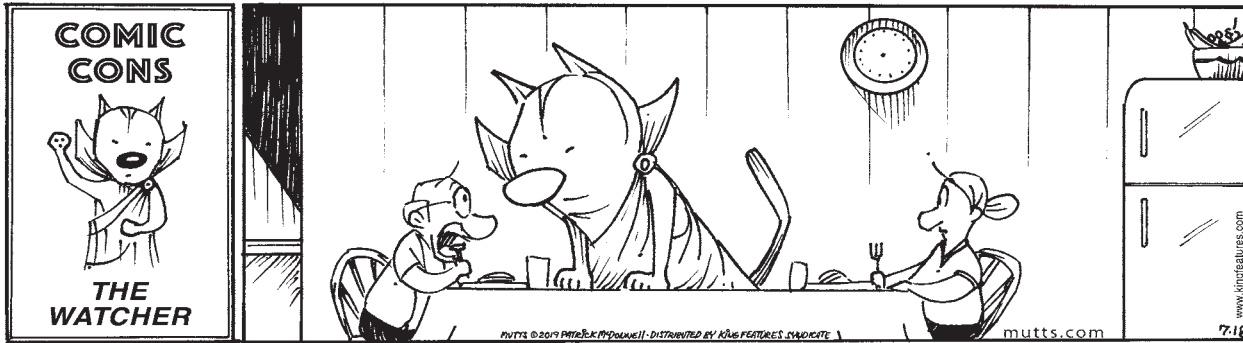
Several large companies are scheduled to report earnings later today and

throughout the remainder of the week. Netflix will release its results after the market closes, as will IBM. UnitedHealth Group, Phillip Morris and Morgan Stanley are scheduled to release their results Thursday.

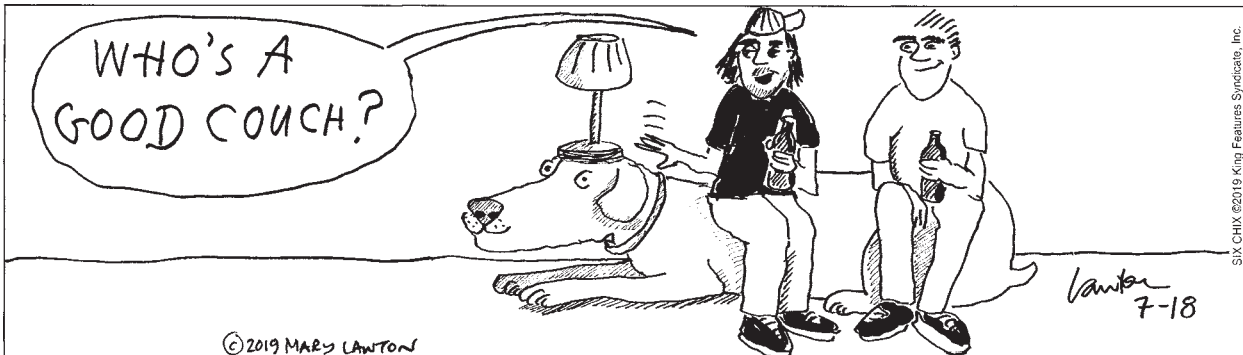
KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index fell 0.3% as of 10:30 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 36 points, or 0.1%, to 27,298. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.1%. Small-company stocks did worse than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 index fell 0.6%.

BLEMISHED FORECAST: Nu Skin Enterprises fell 16.7% after the seller of skin care and nutritional products slashed its profit and revenue forecast for the year. The company and other direct sellers of wellness products are facing increased scrutiny from the Chinese government and that is hampering sales growth. Nu Skin gets 33% of its revenue from China, according to FactSet. □

Mutts



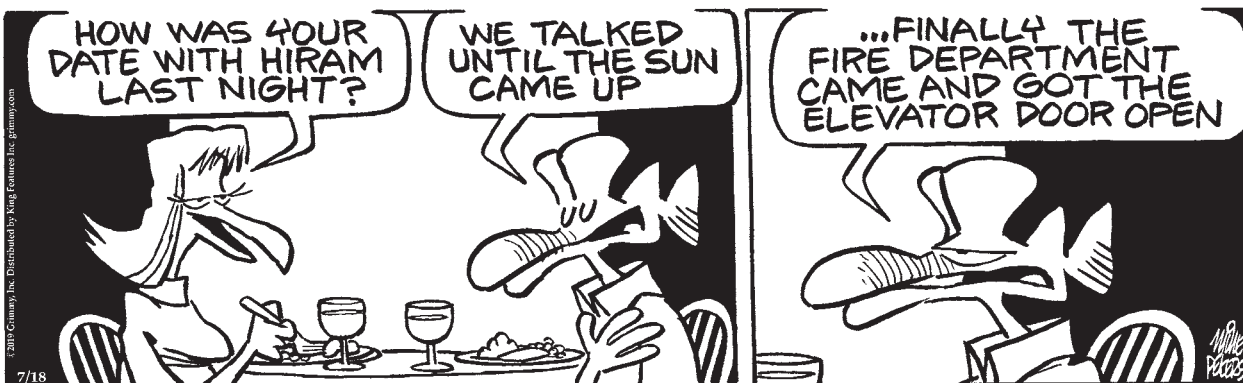
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	9					6	
				2			7	
				4				5
					6			4
3	4	6				5	8	2
5			8					
1				9				
	9				8			
	2					7	3	

Difficulty Level ★★

7/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

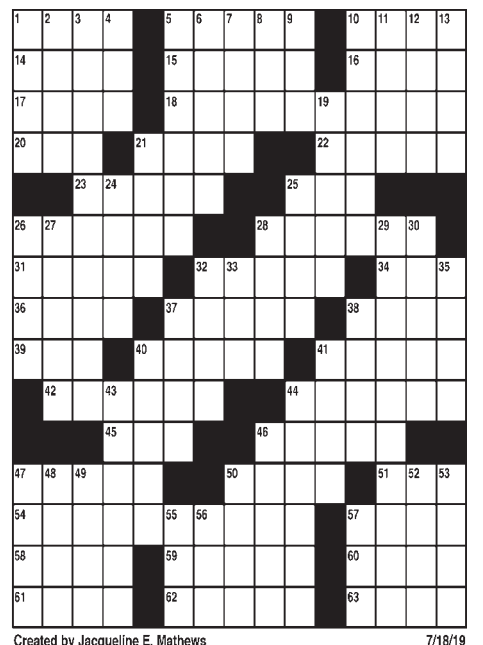
3	5	8	4	1	2	7	9	6
9	4	7	6	8	5	3	2	1
1	2	6	7	3	9	5	4	8
7	3	9	5	6	8	2	1	4
5	8	2	9	4	1	6	3	7
4	6	1	3	2	7	8	5	9
8	9	3	1	5	6	4	7	2
2	7	5	8	9	4	1	6	3
6	1	4	2	7	3	9	8	5

ACROSS

- 1 Dry gully
- 5 Brazilian dance
- 10 Bleak; gloomy
- 14 Kitchen cooker
- 15 Dairy product
- 16 Running contest
- 17 Wealthy: Sp.
- 18 Excludes from the group
- 20 Initials for Mamie's man
- 21 Singing couples
- 22 City in England
- 23 Acquire knowledge
- 25 N.T. book
- 26 Tester fillers
- 28 Sign of affection
- 31 Immature form of an insect
- 32 Express gratitude to
- 34 AAA job
- 36 "Queen for ___" of old TV
- 37 Being dishonest
- 38 Mumbai dress
- 39 Greeted
- 40 In a ___; sort of
- 41 Hand protectors
- 42 Giggle
- 44 Pastor's territory
- 45 Helium or hydrogen
- 46 Upper body
- 47 Bar seat
- 50 Show boldness
- 51 Org. for Suns & Spurs
- 54 Entrepreneur
- 57 Name for a Beatle
- 58 Lumberjack's tools
- 59 Italian staple
- 60 Branches
- 61 Breath freshener
- 62 Do very well
- 63 Proofer's find

DOWN

- 1 Give one's ___; promise
- 2 Fervent
- 3 Slow down
- 4 ___ nutshell; concisely
- 5 Uses Brillo
- 6 Firebug's crime
- 7 Citi Field squad
- 8 Forbid entry to
- 9 Doc's org.
- 10 Mourn
- 11 Level a building
- 12 On the rocks
- 13 Muddle
- 19 Cash register operator
- 21 Big ___
- 24 Covetousness
- 25 Told
- 26 Close noisily
- 27 West Point pupil
- 28 Malacca
- 29 Not moving
- 30 Out of ___; grouchy
- 32 Tim Daly's sis
- 33 "He's got the whole world in ___"
- 35 Aspiration; longing
- 37 Bruce & Spike
- 38 Knights
- 40 Commandment verb
- 41 Female animal
- 43 Self-promoter
- 44 Door
- 46 Single bite
- 47 Illegal way to make money
- 48 Cab
- 49 Dentist's directive
- 50 Compact ___; CD
- 52 Baby ___; sign of pregnancy
- 53 "The Sun ___ Rises"; Tyrone Power film
- 55 Jungle animal
- 56 Too lenient
- 57 Light touch



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/18/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

CRIB	GAGS	CHOP
LUNAR	RIOT	LANE
ASTHE	IMPUDENCE	
PHI	PIN	BARKER
MOANS	BIG	
TRIVIA	POLYPS	
RIDER	HARRY	HAL
ASAN	COLON	FETA
PET	DOLLS	PANIC
REVIVE	THRONE	
ONE	REARM	
HOLLER	EDS	EFG
INAUDIBLE	ERNIE	
GLUM	NOOK	DEALT
HYDE	GAPS	FLEA

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7/18/19

Fans in Italy root for clever brown bear to elude captivity

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A brown bear in Italy has eluded capture for a third day, following its escape from an electrified enclosure in a forested Alpine region. Appeals mounted urging authorities not to shoot it.

It's not clear how the bear got past an electrified fence, then scaled a nearly 4-meter (13-foot) high barrier. Days earlier, the bear

had been captured by forest rangers after attacks on livestock.

Environment Minister Sergio Costa tweeted "Don't shoot." He wants to avoid a replay of the 2014 death of a bear caused by a tranquilizer dart after the animal had attacked a mushroom hunter in the same region. Elsewhere on Twitter, some on Wednesday rooted for the bear. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

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2BR Oceanview \$8K
2BR Oceanfront \$12K
Aruba Divi Phoenix
Studio WK27 frontvillas
Grondfloor 17weeks \$6K
1BR WK30 building6
3rdfloor 32weeks \$8,5K

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinumseason
1BR Oceanview \$12K
1BR Oceanfront \$18K
2BR Oceanview \$18K
2BR Oceanfront \$28K
Aruba Divi Phoenix
1BR WK27
Studio WK27/28
30weeks \$8,5K 1BR
Studio \$7K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season
2 BR Gardenview \$15K
2 BR Oceanview \$17K
2 BR Oceanside \$18K
2 BR Oceanfront \$27K
3 BR Oceanview \$28K

Marriott Surf Club

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2 BR Oceanside \$9K
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In this Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 file photo, a dealer resets a deck of cards at a casino in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Winners overlook rigged games' lack of fairness, study finds

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

When it comes to fairness and privilege, a new study finds it really is not about how you play the game. It's about whether you win or lose.

A new experiment, played out as a card game, shows that even when the deck is literally stacked in people's favor — and they know it — most winners still think it's fair anyway. Losers don't, according to a study in Wednesday's journal *Science Advances*.

The study "tells us something about privilege and about society," said Bates College sociologist Emily Kane, who wasn't part of the research. "It reminds us how powerful perceptions are — it's not just what is happening that matters, it's often more a matter of what we think is happening," she wrote in an email.

The research shows how people who have advantages in life can give themselves too much credit in explaining how they got so far, Kane said.

It all started when some Cornell University sociology graduate students were playing a card game that rewards someone who has already won. Study lead author Mario D. Molina noticed that people who won — because the rules benefited them — thought it was their skill, when it mostly wasn't.

So Molina and colleagues created their own game that would take away randomness as much as possible and rewarded winners by letting them discard their worst cards and take away the losers' best cards. Nearly 1,000 players were shown how it works and how the game was rigged to help the winners.

The players were asked if

the game was fair, based on luck or based on skill. Molina said 60% of the winners thought the game was fair, compared with 30% of the losers. And when it came to explaining who won, winners attributed it to talent three times more often than losers.

Once the game got even more unfair, with a second round of card exchanges to further benefit the winners, far fewer winners thought the game was fair. Molina called that "the Warren Buffett effect," after the billionaire who has called on higher taxes for the rich to level the playing field.

Molina said this is just a game and noted that the players tended to be younger, whiter and richer than America as a whole — so using these results to explain society more broadly could be too much of a leap.

Yet he said it is useful when thinking about economic privilege.

The main message of the study was pessimistic, said Eliot Smith, a brain sciences professor at Indiana University who wasn't involved in the research: People have problems making moral judgments about fairness when it benefits them. □



This July 13, 2019 photo provided by Guangzhou Wolbaki Bio-tech shows male *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in a container at the company's lab in Guangzhou, China, prepared for release.

Associated Press

Scientists find new way to kill disease-carrying mosquitoes

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists say they nearly eliminated disease-carrying mosquitoes on two islands in China using a new technique. The downside: It may not be practical for larger areas and may cost a lot of money.

In the experiment, researchers targeted Asian tiger mosquitoes, invasive white-striped bugs that can spread dengue fever, Zika and other diseases. They used a novel approach for pest control: First, they infected the bugs with a virus-fighting bacterium, and then zapped them with a small dose of radiation. Zapping is meant to sterilize the mosquitoes. And releasing mosquitoes infected with a bacterial strain not found in wild mosquitoes would stop them from reproducing. Mosquitoes need to have the same type to make young that will survive.

For 18 weeks in 2016 and 2017, the team led by Zhiyong Xi at Michigan State University released male mosquitoes onto two small islands near Guangzhou, China, a region plagued by dengue fever. The number of female mosquitoes responsible for disease spread plummeted by 83% to 94% each year, similar to other methods like spraying insecticides and using genetically modified mosquitoes. Some weeks, there were no signs of disease-

carrying mosquitoes.

No technique so far has had that kind of success, Xi said.

The problem, though, was that it required swarming the islands with lots of mosquitoes, up to 4 million each week. Over the two years, the number totaled to around 200 million mosquitoes released.

The findings appear Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

Scott O'Neill of the World Mosquito Program was concerned by the number of bugs needed for even these small islands, the largest of which was three times the size of New York's Central Park.

"It's hard for me to see how this can be scaled up" to help residents, he said in an email.

Biologist Brian Lovett at the University of Maryland in Bethesda said this isn't a once and done process.

"You have to keep doing it. And if you don't keep doing it, then populations can fairly quickly reestablish," he said.

That's exactly what happened in the experiment: Mosquitoes either buzzed in or matured from young larvae to replace those that died. It's going to require constant monitoring and, potentially, a lot of money, Lovett said.

Costs will go down as the technology advances, the researchers said. □



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'Lion King' composer Hans Zimmer finds circle of life

By LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Composer Hans Zimmer can't seem to get away from "The Lion King."

The emotional score has gotten him jobs, his only Oscar and secured him a place in the hearts of children and adults. But he wasn't sure he wanted to come back when Jon Favreau approached him to revisit the soundtrack for his technologically advanced reimagining of the animated film, which opens nationwide Thursday night.

"I'm always the one saying no to everything," Zimmer, 61, said. "I suppose I'm the reluctant bride."

He only agreed to do "The Lion King" a quarter of a century ago because of his daughter. She was 6 at the time, and his movies at that point weren't exactly child-friendly.

"I couldn't take her to a Tony Scott bloodbath," Zimmer said.

He had one stipulation:



This July 10, 2019 photo shows composer Hans Zimmer posing for a portrait at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., to promote the film "The Lion King."

Associated Press

That it wasn't going to be a musical.

"I said I don't want to do a musical, I hate musicals," Zimmer said. "And they said, we'll guarantee you

this will not become a musical ever." How it ended up that way is, "another story." But it's not the only way "The Lion King" diverged from his expectations. What he

thought was going to be a "nice cartoon" turned into something much darker. The story about a young prince who loses his father hit a nerve for Zimmer,

who also lost his father at a young age.

"All that stuff that one had managed to cover up so well, I had to go and open up and actually write from that point," Zimmer said. "I had to write what it felt like to be a little boy who loses his father."

And yet Zimmer is always somewhat surprised to find that people have such a connection to it. Terrence Malick only approached him for "The Thin Red Line," which would earn him another Oscar nomination, because of "The Lion King." He remembers being at a dinner with Malick, Werner Herzog and others and overhearing, "The voices of the two great filmmakers passionately arguing with each other which piece in 'The Lion King' they prefer."

"I'm going, they're talking about a KIDS movie," Zimmer said, still slightly baffled and amused. "Terry Malick and Werner Herzog arguing about 'The Lion King!'" □

Fans to descend on San Diego for the 50th Comic-Con

By LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dust off your Captain Marvel cosplay, San Diego Comic-Con is here.

The four-and-a-half day convention kicks off Wednesday when the show room floor opens to thousands vying for exclusive merchandise, from art to toys. Later, Warner Bros. will get things going with a ScareDiego event promising some hair-raising new footage from "It: Chapter Two."

"We have some exciting footage but I can't go into details," said "It" director Andy Muschietti. "But I think it's going to be worth it for the fans to go and watch."

Movie fans will also get a look at Paramount's "Terminator: Dark Fate" at a Hall H presentation Thursday, and on Saturday be treated to a Marvel Studios presentation with its president, Kevin Feige. Details for the Marvel show are being kept under wraps, but many expect Feige and his



In this Thursday, July 19, 2018, file photo, attendees Michael Mijerark, left, and Ryan Trent, center, dress as knights from "Warcraft," at Comic-Con International in San Diego.

Associated Press

"special guests" will outline the plans for Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which could include announcements about "Black Widow," "Guardians of the

Galaxy Vol. 3," "Shang-Chi" and "The Eternals." The movie fare is lighter than usual, however. A few of the studios have chosen to sit this year out, like Sony,

which is already cleaning up at the box office with "Spider-Man: Far From Home," and Universal Pictures, which doesn't have any superheroes on its

slate at all. Although Warner Bros. is coming with "It: Chapter Two," it does not have a big Hall H presentation planned for any of its DC properties like "Joker" and the Harley Quinn spinoff "Birds of Prey." And there will be no "Star Wars" news either.

"If anything, the exiting of some movie studios has made more room for TV and TV is just the best of the best right now," said Perri Nemiroff, a senior producer for Collider.com and host of the YouTube series Movie Talk. Television enthusiasts will have their pick, whether they want one last go-around the cast of a show that's ended (like "Game of Thrones" and "Supernatural"), to check in with some old favorites ("The Walking Dead," "The Good Place," "Westworld," "Arrow," "Rick and Morty" and "Riverdale"), or get first look at a new property (such as "Snowpiercer," "Star Trek: Picard" and "The Witcher"). □

Illegal or just immoral? Film explores texting suicide case

BOSTON (AP) — Michelle

Two years after Carter was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in a case that gripped the nation, the director of a new documentary wants viewers

The two-part film, debuting July 9 on HBO, digs into the legal case against Carter and explores a different side to the young Massachusetts woman portrayed by prosecutors as a cruel manipulator who coaxed Conrad Roy III into killing himself for attention.



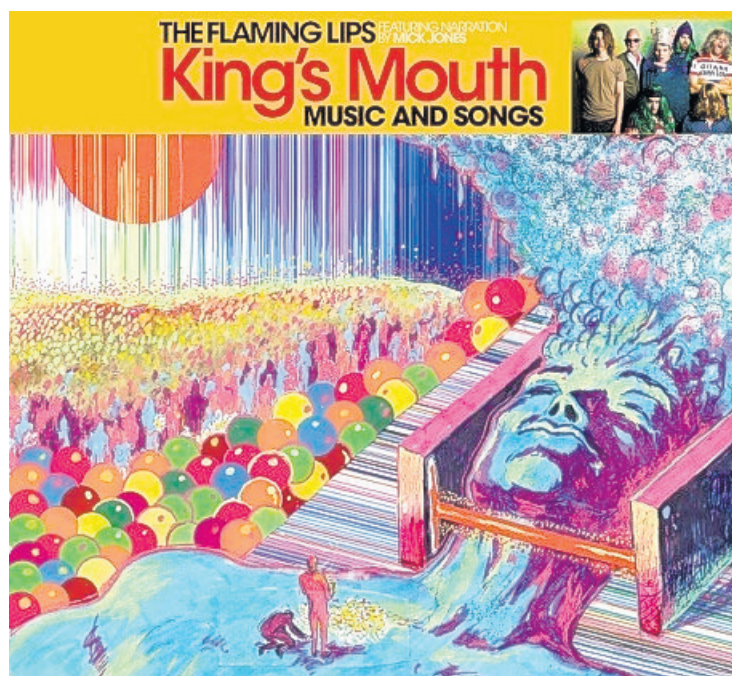
Associated Press

Associated Press

The documentary is coming to TV screens as Carter's lawyers appeal her case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Carter, now 22, began serving her 15-month jail sentence in February, but

Carter opted for a bench trial, which means a judge decided her fate. Carr says she wants the film to act as the jury trial Carter didn't get. □

The Flaming Lips' concept album will blow your mind



Associated Press

Associated Press

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PH	MON-THU	5:50	8:30
	FRI	5:50	8:30 11:10
VII	SAT	3:10	5:50 8:30 11:10
	SUN	3:10	5:50 8:30

PH	MON-THU	5:00	7:40
	FRI	5:00	7:40 10:20
	SAT	2:20	5:00 7:40 10:20
	SUN	2:20	5:00 7:40

CXC

PBP	MON-THU & SUN	2:10	4:45	7:20
	FRI-SAT	2:10	4:45	7:20 10:00

PBP	MON-SUN	1:15	3:50	6:25	9:00
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SPANISH

MON-THU & SUN	2:50	5:25	8:00
FRI-SAT	2:50	5:25	8:00 10:35

ANTONIO BANDERAS | PENÉLOPE CRUZ

BEST ACTOR
ANTONIO BANDERAS

dolor y gloria

SPANISH

PBP	MON-SUN	1:50	4:20	6:50	9:20
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TORREI HART | OMAR GOODING

PERFECTLY SINGLE

PH	MON-THU	4:45	7:05	9:25
	FRI	4:45	7:05	9:25 11:45
	SAT	2:25	4:45	7:05 9:25 11:45
	SUN	2:25	4:45	7:05 9:25

TOM HANKS | TIM ALLEN

Disney • PIXAR
TOY STORY 4
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [G]

PBP	MON-THU & SUN	1:40	4:00	6:25	8:50
	FRI-SAT	1:40	4:00	6:25	8:50 11:15

TOM HOLLAND | SAMUEL L. JACKSON

SPIDER-MAN
Far From Home
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

PH	MON-FRI	5:50	8:40
VII	SAT-SUN	3:00	5:50 8:40

PBP	MON-THU & SUN	2:00	4:45	7:30
	FRI-SAT	2:00	4:45	7:30 10:15

PBP	MON-SUN	12:55	3:40	6:25	9:10
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DAVE BAUTISTA | KUMAIL NANJANI

STUBER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]

PH	MON-THU	5:05	7:15	9:25
	FRI	5:05	7:15	9:25 11:35
	SAT	2:55	5:05	7:15 9:25 11:35
	SUN	2:55	5:05	7:15 9:25

KAYA SCODELARIO | BARRY PEPPER

CRAWL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]

PBP	MON-THU & SUN	1:05	3:10	5:15	7:20	9:25
	FRI-SAT	1:05	3:10	5:15	7:20	9:25 11:30

VERA FARMIGA | PATRICK WILSON

ANNABELLE COMES HOME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]

PH	MON-SUN	7:05	9:35
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PATTON OSWALT | KEVIN HART

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'Game of Thrones' reigns with record 32 Emmy nominations

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — HBO's "Game of Thrones" slashed its way to a record-setting 32 Emmy nominations Tuesday for its eighth and final season, leading HBO back to dominance over Netflix, the streaming service that bumped it last year from atop the increasingly crowded television heap. The bloodthirsty saga's total eclipsed the all-time series record of 27 nods earned by "NYPD Blue" in 1994.

If "Game of Thrones" successfully defends its best drama series title and claims a fourth trophy, it will join the quartet of most-honored dramas that includes "Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law," "The West Wing" and "Mad Men."

The Emmy voters' acclaim stands in sharp contrast to fan reaction to the show's last hurrah, which included howls of laughter for a to-go coffee cup inadvertently included in one scene and a finale that detractors called unsatisfying. But the show's ratings never faltered for the series based on George R.R. Martin's novels, setting new highs for HBO.

A wealth of recognition for the cast and guest stars, including the show's only previous winner, Peter Dinklage with three awards, helped "Game of Thrones" add to its already record haul of nominations, now at 161 total.

Series star Emilia Clarke's decision to seek a best actress nomination after a series of supporting actress bids paid off. She's competing in a category that's notable for its diversity, including past winner Viola Davis for "How to Get Away with Murder" and repeat nominee Sandra Oh for "Killing Eve," who has another chance to become the first actress of Asian descent to win the trophy. She lost last year to Claire Foy for Netflix's "The Crown."

Two actors of color, Billy Porter for "Pose" and previous winner Sterling K. Brown for "This Is Us," earned drama series nods.

The rest of the drama series



This image released by HBO shows Emilia Clarke, left, and Kit Harington in a scene from the final episode of "Game of Thrones."

Associated Press

field includes "Better Call Saul," "Bodyguard," "Killing Eve," "Ozark," "Pose," "Succession" and, as the only network entry, "This Is Us." Mandy Moore, who plays the NBC drama's matriarch, earned her first best actress nod, with fellow cast member Chris Sullivan earning his first nod, for supporting actor.

Last year's best comedy series, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," led the comedy pack with 20 bids, including for its star and defending champion Rachel Brosnahan.

"I'm at the dog park this morning with my fur children and started getting a lot of texts and phone calls all at once. I'm so excited to learn that the 'Maisel' family has been invited back to the party. This category is ridiculous. I can't believe I get to be a part of anything with these amazing women," Brosnahan told The Associated Press. She'll vie with Emmy record-holder Julia Louis-Dreyfus of "Veep," who didn't compete in last year's awards because her breast cancer treatment delayed production of the political satire. Louis-Dreyfus, who with Cloris Leachman shares the record for most Emmys won by a performer, eight, has a

shot at solo glory if she wins again.

The final season of "Veep" received nine nominations, including a best supporting actress bid for Anna Chlumsky.

"I'm feeling really jazzed. It might be the coffee I just had. But this feels so much sweeter because it's the last time around for this show," she said.

There was no warm and fuzzy goodbye for "The Big Bang Theory," the long-running sitcom that failed to capture a best comedy nod or any for its actors. The show has company in other hit sitcoms of the past: Neither "Friends" nor "Frasier" were nominated for best series for their final year, both in 2004.

TV academy members' out-with-the-old approach created openings for a number of buzzy comedy newcomers and their stars and creators, including Phoebe Waller-Bridge's "Fleabag" and Natasha Lyonne's "Russian Doll." Other best comedy contenders include "Barry," which won acting trophies last year for Bill Hader and Henry Winkler, and sole network entry "The Good Place."

A surprising entry: the quirky "Schitt's Creek," which received its first best com-

edy series nomination for its penultimate season and bids for stars Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara.

Other top nominees include the nuclear disaster miniseries "Chernobyl" with 19 nominations and "Saturday Night Live," which drew on Robert De Niro's talents to play Robert Mueller last season, with 18. "When They See Us," the miniseries that dramatized the Central Park Five case and its aftermath, received 16 bids.

"Thank you to the real men for inviting me to tell their story," tweeted Ava DuVernay, executive producer of "When They See Us."

The leading miniseries nominee is "Fosse/Verdon," the biopic about dancer Gwen Verdon and choreographer Bob Fosse that earned 17 bids, including the first Emmy nominations for stars Michelle Williams and Sam Rockwell.

There was a significant drop in diversity among this year's group of nominees compared to 2018, when more than a third of the 101 nominees in acting categories were ethnic minorities. This year, the figure was less than a quarter, with diversity especially absent in comedy.

Just two of the 26 acting nominees were people of

color — Anthony Anderson for "black-ish" and Don Cheadle for "Black Monday" — and three of the four categories had only white nominees.

Categories dominated by the overwhelmingly white "Game of Thrones" were also short on inclusion, including supporting actress in a drama — zero nominees — and supporting drama actor, with only Giancarlo Esposito of "Better Call Saul" receiving a nomination.

In the overall tally contest among outlets, HBO received a whopping 137 nominations Tuesday, riding the dragon wings of "Game of Thrones" and the big tallies for "Chernobyl" and "Barry." Netflix, which last year ended HBO's 17-year reign to win the most Emmy nominations, was bumped to second this year with 117. Amazon's Prime Video was second to Netflix among streamers with 47 nominations.

Broadcast networks, steadily eclipsed by the rise of cable and now streaming, were far behind, with NBC getting 58 nods to top CBS' 43, ABC's 26 and Fox's 18.

The 71st Emmy Awards will air Sept. 22 on Fox, with the host yet to be announced. □

Badlands and history in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

By BETH J. HARPAZ

Associated Press

MEDORA, N.D. (AP) — For travelers looking to visit all 50 states, North Dakota is often one of the last to be checked off. It's not exactly on the way to anywhere else, and flying there is expensive.

It ended up being 49th on my 50-state quest (sorry, Idaho!). Part of the challenge was deciding what to do there and how to get there. I had to choose between visiting Fargo in eastern North Dakota (and the name of one of my favorite movies) or Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the west. It's 330 miles (530 kilometers) between them, and I didn't have time for both on a week-long road trip that also included Montana's Glacier National Park and Idaho's Craters of the Moon.

In the end, Roosevelt Park won out. Photos of its badlands and prairies enchanted me, and the story of Teddy Roosevelt's sojourn there following the deaths of his wife and mother on the same day intrigued me. What was it about this place that allowed this future president to grieve and recover — while at the same time inspiring him to become one of America's most influential conservationists? I needed to see it for myself.

GETTING THERE

My husband and I flew to Denver — by air from New York, the cheapest jump-off point — and rented



This Sept. 3, 2017 photo shows a cabin that Theodore Roosevelt lived in, open to visitors at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, N.D.

Associated Press

a car (unlimited mileage, of course). We then drove 600 miles (965 kilometers) north through Wyoming and South Dakota to the tiny North Dakota town of Medora (population 132), at the entrance to the park's South Unit.

Fortunately, those 600 miles were easily done in a day, thanks to speed limits of 75 and 80 mph (120-128 kph) in many spots, and little traffic outside Colorado. Still, it felt like we were heading to a pretty remote place, and I wondered if the park would hold its own against national parks I'd visited in Alaska, Hawaii and the Southwest, not to mention Yellowstone and Yosemite.

About 700,000 people visit Roosevelt Park yearly, compared to the more than 3 million annual visitors at places like Montana's Glacier Park.

THE LOOP AND WILDLIFE

Teddy Roosevelt Park is open 24 hours daily. We arrived at 7:30 a.m. one day at the tail end of last summer. Map in hand, we drove the 36-mile (58-kilometer) scenic loop around the park's South Unit, stopping at many of the nearly 20 points of interest along the way.

Within minutes, we came upon a prairie dog town. Dozens of the tiny creatures scampered back and forth, popping in and out of little holes amid scrubby grasses. We'd see three more prairie dog towns before we completed the loop, along with wild horses grazing on a hill by the roadside and in another spot, a herd of bison. The wildlife encounters were thrilling and unexpected surprises.

THE LANDSCAPE

The landscape was thrilling too. The scent of sage perfumed the air, and bursts of red foliage punctuated the gray-green grasslands. Stripes of peach, cream and mud-brown earth and stone lined the curving banks of the Little Missouri River.

Framing it all were the famous badlands stretching to the horizon: flat-topped stone formations with striated slopes in tawny yellows and russet reds, dotted with bright green trees and patches of grass. They looked like the crusty paws of some massive alien creature on the verge of rising up.

We did most of the hikes along the loop drive, some just a few minutes' walk to an overlook, others 20 to 40 minutes along hilly trails covering a mile or more. At every stop, we were awed by the scenery, from the astonishing palette of earthy hues to the stone shapes etching land and sky.

ROOSEVELT'S STORY

An exhibit at the visitor center tells Roosevelt's story. On his first visit in 1883, he hunt-

ed bison and invested in a ranch near Medora. He'd been a state assemblyman in his native New York, but after his mother and wife both died on Feb. 14, 1884, he left politics and returned to the badlands to mourn his losses. He lived in a small ponderosa pine cabin now located just steps from the visitor center. It's furnished with period pieces and some of his belongings, including his traveling trunk, a replica of his writing desk and a rocking chair. Roosevelt lived the cowboy life, spending days riding and herding in what was considered America's last frontier. His experiences there were formative: He lost more than \$24,000 when blizzards decimated the cattle he'd invested in. He witnessed the environmental damage done by overgrazing. And he realized that the bison, who once roamed the plains in the millions, had dwindled to the hundreds.

Roosevelt wrote three books inspired by his Western sojourn. He eventually returned to politics, serving as New York governor and from 1901-1909, as U.S. president. His accomplishments included the conservation of 230 million acres of land, a legacy that led to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. For me, Roosevelt Park ranks among the most interesting and beautiful I've seen. I wish I hadn't waited so long to visit, and I hope someday to go back and absorb more of the place that Roosevelt called "a land of vast silent spaces — a place of grim beauty." □



This Sept. 3, 2017 photo shows a "Do not feed the prairie dogs" sign at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, N.D.

Associated Press



This Sept. 3, 2017 photo shows bison grazing at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, N.D.

Associated Press